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Decorating fair
My trusty pile of old *Vanity Fair* mags are a constant source of style inspiration.



Pop the champers
It was a labour of love, but my reno is complete and I'd love to share my sources and tips – and occasional missteps – with you. *See page 128.*
PS Thanks carpenter Tony Plumridge for getting all these windows opening again!



Balance elegance
Mantis wall **lamp**, $1645, Spence & Lyda. *1.53m from wall to shade.*

Sleep pretty
How beautiful is the Mr Fräg "Cloud" side table doubling as a bedside table in one of the dreamy bedrooms we've created for you. *See page 116.*



Nature's blues
Remember "Due Colori" **vase**, $33 for small, Top3 By Design. *10.5cm dia.*

Forever green
Artificial Aloe Pick in Extra Mini Tub **pot plant**, $18.95, Super Amart. *16cm high.*

Magical ambience
Kartell "Light Air" sculptured **lamp** in Crystal, $285, Top3 By Design. *32cm high.*

WELCOME

WHERE DID THE HOLIDAYS GO? And how pretty is the bedroom on the cover? It's so fresh and dreamy, and has a holiday feel about it – that's one way to keep the holiday vibe alive. The linen on the bed is from the brand new **real living** for Freedom range (available this month). I love the room's palette – the gentle grey on the walls and the hint of pastel pink mixed with mustard. The mustard gives any pink depth and stops it from being overly girly. Interiors with a smudge of putty pink are hot right now. And pink is so easy to add – it could simply be in a cushion.

I did just that in the **real living** shoot of my own home (page 128). Adding a little pink Rachel Castle cushion to the tan leather cushion on my bed made it all seem right. If you're a regular reader of **real living**, you might have followed the trials and tribulations of my renovation in my "Welcome" letters last year. Well, finally it's over! The day the builders packed up their tools, the plumber turned on the water and the council inspectors tucked their clipboards under their arms and drove away, I squealed and danced around the empty space – seriously. My new home, with its glossy floors, freshly painted walls and perfectly sanded and oiled benchtops, was better than I had dreamed. The build was so beautiful, I didn't want to put furniture in the space!

Most renos we feature in **real living** are hard to secure because by the time the homeowner is ready to shoot the result they've forgotten everything, are over it anyway and often don't want to reveal how much it cost (because it doubled and they're mortified). So when I dug the first sod for my own reno, I knew every detail would have to be documented for you guys. My article is a huge 22 pages – warts and all, drama and delight – with sources, tips and costs revealed, eek! Yes, the budget was blown, but I learnt so much on the journey, and hope my tell-all helps guide you on your renovating adventure. If you have a story and images, we'd love to hear from you.

Also in this issue – yes, you can have a home office without the space (page 67), and cool ideas for renters (page 60 is my fave; the layering is perfect). Happy decorating (or renovating).

Deborah

@deb_bibby



Colour me happy!
Get your pencils ready…
The **real living** *Chill Out & Colour In* colouring book, $14.95, will be on sale in newsagents from February 8. Get it!

photography maree homer (portrait of deb; bedroom table detail); sharyn cairns (deb's window shot)

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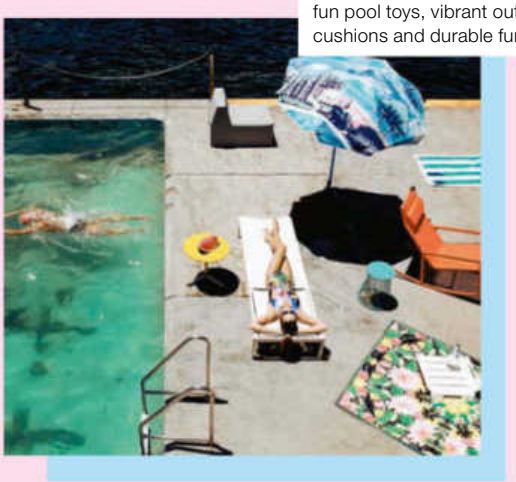




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HOT STYLING TIPS
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editorial

Editor-in-chief Deborah Bibby *dbibby@bauer-media.com.au*
Deputy editor John McDonald
Art director Sandy Dao
Deputy art director Andrea Healy
Designer Christina Banos
Style editor Sarah Ellison
Chief subeditor & features writer Elle Lovelock
Subeditor & features writer Karlie Verkerk
Subeditor & features writer Diana Prichard
Social media coordinator Jessica Holmes
Editorial production manager Bi Luu
Editorial coordinator Lisa Burden (02) 8275 6414
Thanks to Callum Agnew; Carolyn Anderson; Cate Bignall; Danielle El Helou; Henriette Gabreal; Rosie Gallen; Corina Koch; Kate Leabeater; Bridget Maloney; Jacinda Martin; Ivana Sanfilippo; Marianne Snoodijk; Violet Younan

production

Senior production controller Emma Beck
Advertising production Dominic Roy

advertising

Head of commercial categories Mark Driscoll (02) 9282 8904
Commercial category manager Alison Kirkman (02) 9282 8428
NSW Head of direct sales Lisa Wells (02) 9282 8111
NSW Direct sales coordinator Melissa Krueckel (02) 9282 8452
Senior event manager Alice Rodgers (02) 8267 9510
Head of creative Allan Fletcher (02) 8268 4494
Creative studio manager Rachel Gavin (02) 9282 8064

interstate advertising

VIC Head of direct sales Christine Lester (03) 9823 6382
VIC Head of agency sales Julia Davenport (03) 9823 6328
VIC Direct sales coordinator Joanna Hutton (03) 9823 6309
QLD Head of sales & solutions Nikkola Hogan (07) 3101 6636
SA/WA Sales manager Nabula El Mourid (08) 8267 5032

NEW ZEALAND Enquiries +61 2 9282 8505

marketing, research & circulation

Marketing manager Claudia Cassar
Insights manager Rebecca McLean
Brand manager Charlotte Gray
Subscriptions marketing manager Michelle Willis
Research director Justin Stone

syndication

Email syndication@bauer-media.com.au

bauer media

Publisher, specialist division Cornelia Schulze
Director of media solutions Simon Davies
General manager, marketing Natalie Bettini
NSW sales director Jo Clasby
Commercial manager Lucille Charles
Business manager Davide Di-Pietro

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Cork it!
Raika 1 Light **pendant light** in Cork/Amber Glass, $299, Beacon Lighting.



Industrial snap
Architecture framed **artwork** in Pink by Middle Of Nowhere, $345, Life Interiors. *1.11m x 82cm.*

MARCH

COVER GET THE LOOK

PINK, WHITE, MUSTARD AND GREY – THIS LOOK IS **PRETTY GRITTY**

WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT pastel pink and mustard would work so well together? Turns out they do! When tempered with fresh white and rustic grey, it's a colour combo to be reckoned with. The star of this bedroom is our brand new **real living** for Freedom bedlinen, which features said combo. The white four-poster bed it covers is dreamy, while the mustard chair packs a punch. A grey boarded wall and pale pink artwork complete the pretty gritty look.

Sculptural side
Swole **side table** in Copper, $699, Blu Dot.

Two-tone treat
Studio Twocan large **pot**, $85, Jardan.

Made by hand
Copper **bowl**, $78, Beans + Jazz. *7.5cm diameter.*

Between the lines
real living for Freedom "Rites Of Spring" **quilt cover set** in Blush, $169 for queen, Freedom. *Available in store from March.*

Hot hue
real living for Freedom "Armless" **chair** in Mustard, $599, Freedom.

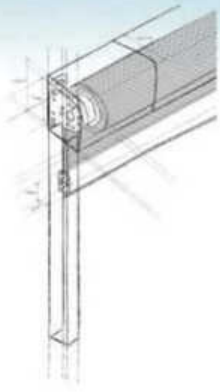
Sparkly steps
2750 Cotu Lamew **sneakers** in Gold New, $99.95, Superga.

Soft spot
Round utility **floor cushion** $185, MJG by Mr Jason Grant.

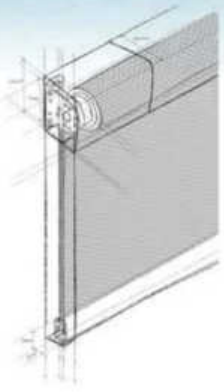
Mr Prickles
Potted **cactus** from Saint Cloche.
For stockists, see page 175.

text elle lovelock | **photography** maree homer | **styling** sarah ellison
styling assistants carolyn anderson & rosie gallen | **hair & make-up** jaclyn hnitko

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LOVING

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Woof woof Basil the rescue dog is happy to have a home in the warehouse conversion. A turquoise Moroccan pouffe gives the room a refreshing jolt of colour. *Flip the page for more.* →

OUR HOUSE

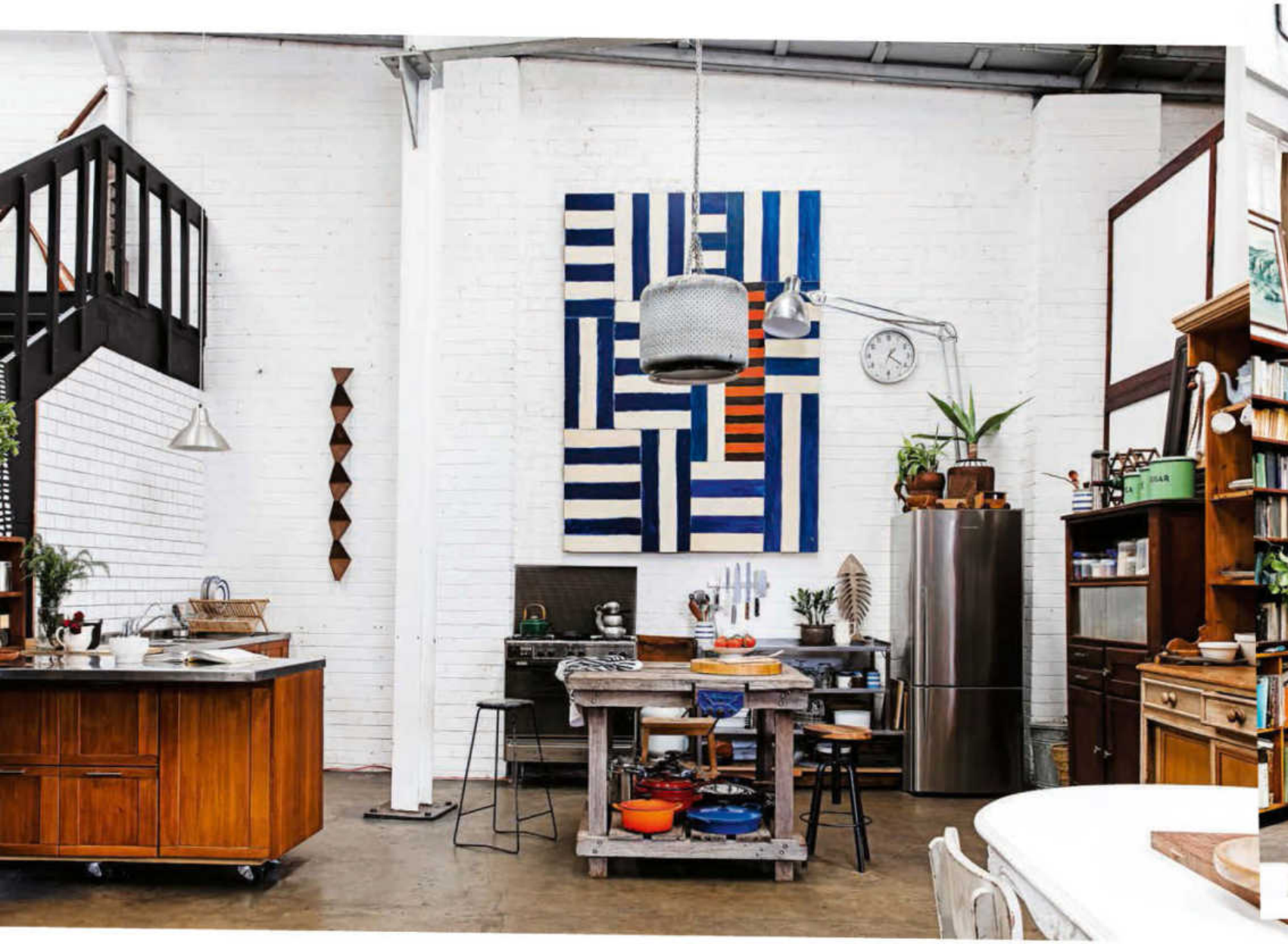


Captured curiosities
Homeowner Anamai has collected natural objects since she was a child, and displays them around the home she shares with partner Brendan.

In the zone
Anamai and Brendan sit in the chill-out zone on the mezzanine level, complete with a hanging rattan chair and daybed. →

A WAREHOUSE IS TRANSFORMED WITH A WHOLE LOTTA PAINT AND A TRUCKLOAD OF TREASURES

text & styling kerrie-ann jones | **photography** maree homer



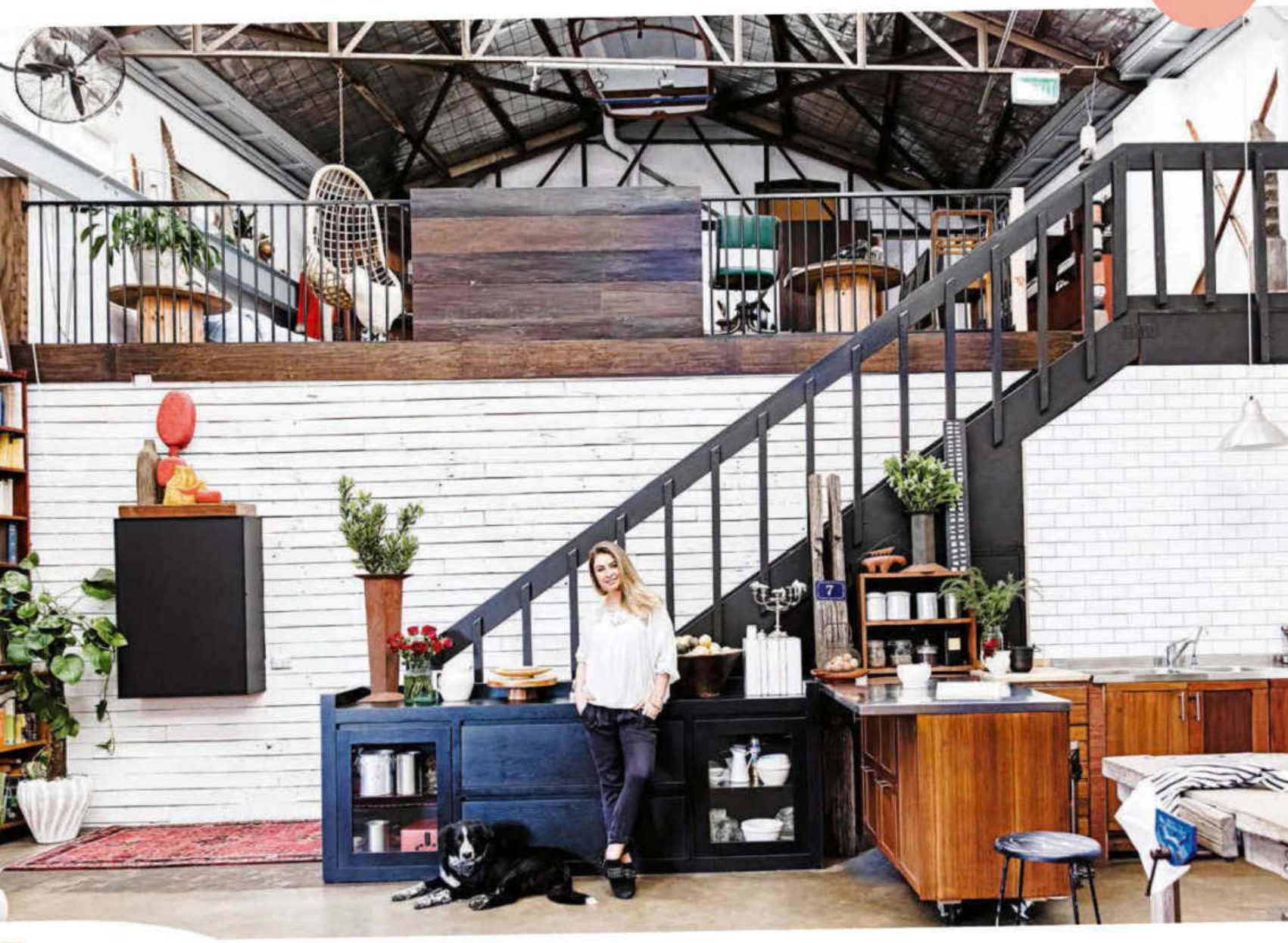
Creative kitchen
The striking artwork on the kitchen wall is by Anamai's mum, Teresa. A fabulous old carpenter's bench becomes a handy kitchen island.

Fence sitters
The resourceful couple used recycled timber fence palings, painted white, to clad the wall behind the staircase.

EVER SINCE ANAMAI CARBONEL was a child she's been enthralled by the beauty in nature. "My room was always filled with treasures I had lovingly collected from the bush, fields and beaches," she recalls. "I've always been a collector – it has just come naturally to me. Over time my collection has continued to grow and evolve." So when Anamai stumbled across this spacious warehouse in the inner-Sydney suburb of Alexandria, she knew it was the perfect place to house her treasured collections.

STORAGE HEAVEN As an event stylist for music festivals and industrial artist, Anamai also needed a place to store props and a studio space to work on her sculptures – and the warehouse easily delivered. In fact, there was enough room for her partner Brendan's furniture workshop, too.

MAKING IT HOME Despite needing some work to make the warehouse liveable, it was a dream fit for the couple, who moved in three years ago. The first task was to paint the interior walls. The colour white was chosen to create a blank canvas for their eclectic collection of furniture and finds. With scaffolding erected and paint rollers at the ready, it took two weeks to paint the warehouse. Then the resourceful couple used recycled timber fence palings to clad the staircase wall and timber sleepers for the floor →



WHO LIVES HERE? EVENT STYLIST/ARTIST ANAMAI CARBONEL, HER PARTNER, FURNITURE MAKER/DJ BRENDAN KING, AND THEIR RESCUE DOG BASIL

ANAMALIA.COM.AU; @_ANAMALIA_

Love in the kitchen The kitchen is definitely the heart of the home, Anamai says. "We just love our kitchen – it's so open and spacious. The carpentry island bench is always in use by us, from reading the newspaper, chatting or just sitting with a cup of tea."
Room dividers The placement of furniture in the open-plan warehouse is used to demarcate the various living zones, making for cosy areas within the home.



Moody magic
An artwork by Anamai's late grandfather, Bert Flugelman, jumps out from the moody, midnight-blue painted storage cupboard. A wool kilim rug warms the concrete floor.



DIY project!
The pendant light hanging over the island bench is made from a washing-machine drum. Indoor plants add life to the space. →

Shelfie goals Bedroom shelves are chockablock with curated treasures, carefully layered to stunning effect. **White wash** Amber vessels, crystals and a rustic mirror add personality to the bathroom. **Boho dreaming** The bed sits on timber pallets, with a floaty makeshift canopy hanging above. Anamai made the timber sculpture at the bed's head. →

of the mezzanine level. "Everything that has been done to this space has been done on an absolute shoestring budget," explains Anamai, who sources most of her homewares and furniture from op shops, furniture auctions, online sites eBay and Gumtree, and garage sales. "I get a thrill out of acquiring something super-unique at a bargain price," she says. The couple's resourcefulness extends to DIY projects, too – the pendant light above the kitchen island bench is a recycled washing machine drum.

CREATING ZONES After the interior painting and carpentry work was completed, Anamai and Brendan divided the warehouse into sections. Prop storage, workshop, living, dining and kitchen areas are located downstairs, while the mezzanine level includes a chill-out zone – complete with a hanging cane chair – bedroom and bathroom. The collected treasures help to demarcate the zones, with props integrated into the home – Anamai often uses the vintage sofas in the living room in her styling work.

DECORATING INFLUENCE Creativity runs in Anamai's family. Her late grandfather Bert Flugelman was a prominent Australian artist. His artworks and sculpture are dotted around the warehouse, along with works by Anamai's mother Teresa – including a large piece on the kitchen wall. Her family's artistic background plus growing up in Kangaroo Valley, NSW, and later in Byron Bay, has had a huge influence on Anamai's eclectic interior style – perfectly suited to the bohemian feel of warehouse living.







BAMBOO POLES PLUS
MUSLIN = DIY CANOPY



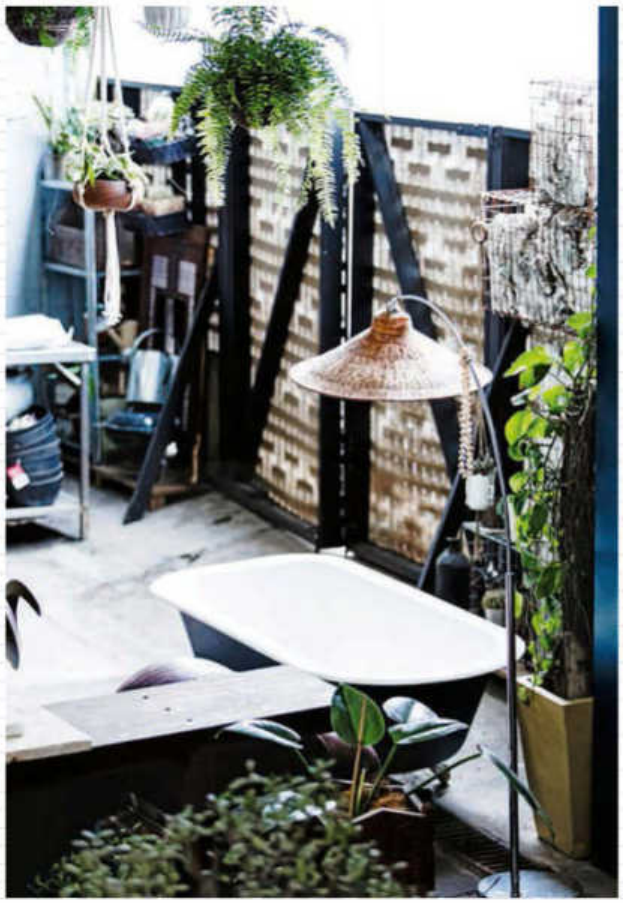






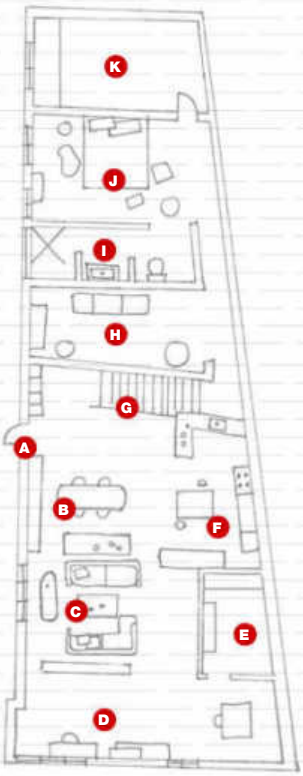
FINISHES

SPLASHBACK Spanish subway tiles in **Gloss White** (**A**), from $71.50 a sq m, Classic Tiles. **FLOORING** Poured **concrete** (**B**), from $35 to $65 a sq m, from concrete flooring suppliers. **INTERIOR PAINT** British Paints Clean & Protect low-sheen in **Kara Sea** (**C**), $69.90 for 4L, Bunnings. Sherwin-Williams Interior Paint & Primer in **Extra White** (**D**), $72 for 3.78L. *For stockists, see page 175.*



Starry nights
The bathtub outside is often filled on summery nights and bathed in under the stars. Pot plants for a garden vibe.

KEY
A Entrance
B Dining
C Living area
D Workshop
E Storage
F Kitchen
G Stairs
H Office/lounge area
I Bathroom
J Bedroom
K Walk-in robe



floorplan & still-life styling christina banos | **photography** maree homer (lifestyle shots)



Inspiration strikes
Family photos and collectibles around Anamai's work desk are all sources of inspiration.

Optical illusion
Criss Cross **artwork**, from $60 for 40cm x 30cm, I Need Nice Things.

Sheeny shine
Foto **pendant light** in Aluminium, $29.99, Ikea. *25cm diameter.*

ANAMAI & BRENDAN'S MOODBOARD

White brick walls combine with eclectic furniture and homewares for an inner-city boho style

While away hours
Hanging rattan **chair** in Natural, $499, HK Living.

Up high
Club round **bar stool**, $385, Vavoom Emporium. *80cm high.*

In the navy
Ink Stripe **vessel** in Navy, $49.95, Freedom. *45cm high.*

Hot pot
Le Creuset oval **French oven** in Volcanic (27cm), $489, Teddingtons.

Happy socks
Cargo Industrial **tallboy**, $979, Loft. *1.47m x 59cm x 41cm.*

Cushy cool
Pinstripe linen **cushion cover**, $55, Major Minor Sydney. *50cm.*

Instant warmth
Cowhide **rug** in Brown/White, $418, NSW Leather Co. *About 3.6 sq m.*

Great for storage
Small collapsible seagrass **basket**, $30, Dear September. *29cm diameter.*

Sepia tones
Popcorn Berry **bottles**, $49.95 each, Rogue. *Flowers not included.*


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THESE PORCELAIN BEAUTIES ARE INDIVIDUALLY SLIP-CAST IN REUSABLE LEATHER MOLDS, YIELDING ONE-OF-A-KIND PIECES THAT ARE TEXTURED BY THE LEATHER. THE SOUDA/LUFT TANAKA "KAWA" DISHES (8.9CM DIAMETER) ARE PRICED FROM $77 EACH, CRITERIACOLLECTION.COM.AU



LOCAL MATERIALS

HUGH ALTSCHWAGER IS INFLUENCED BY THE AUSSIE ENVIRONMENT AND HIS NORDIC HERITAGE IN HIS **INKSTER MAKEN** LIGHTING DESIGNS, MADE FROM TURNED SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LIMESTONE AND TIMBER. **FOXFIRE PENDANT**. FROM $775 FOR 24CM DIAMETER, WWW.INKSTERMAKEN.COM

FAVE FINDS

Creative shops and new products that are **cool & covetable** – and sometimes worth a splurge!



NATURE'S SUBSTITUTES

If you can't have marble tiles or marble benchtops, you can still decorate your home with natural, marble-like patterns in soft furnishings such as the **Typo bean bag** ($79.99). And if you can't have an ocean in your home, you can still have a **Waves wall clock** ($24.99, 25.5cm dia) for an oceanic splish-splash! Head to Typo.com.au



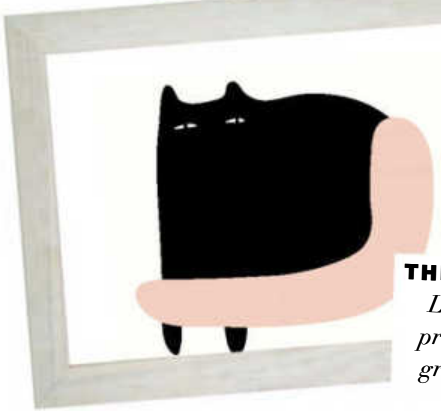
SQUISHY

Furniture/interiors brand **Mark Tuckey** has collaborated with clothing/homewares store **Cotton On** on a second range of furnishings at affordable prices such as the **Zig Zag pillow** in Caton (60cm x 40cm), $49.95, **Velvet Chambray cushion** in Salmon (50cm), $29.95, and **Stripe Slub throw** in Caton/Milk (right), $69.95. Cottonon.com.au



PERFUMED ART

What do you get when candles and artists mix? Perfumed creativity of course! **Maison Balzac**'s "**Le Rose**" is inspired by the colours of **Miranda Skoczek**'s painting *Cy's Blooms*. The scent marries rose petals, thyme leaves and cedar wood dust. From $25. Maisonbalzac.com



Purr-fect print

Pink Pussy limited-edition silk-screen **print** by Peter Bainbridge, $2800 (framed), Peterbainbridgesix@gmail.com. *1.07m x 95cm; limited edition of 15; printed on handmade French cotton paper.*



THE CAT'S MIAOW *Inspired by US graphic designer Saul Bass and French artists Toulouse-Lautrec and Matisse, Peter Bainbridge has created delightful, limited-edition silk-screen art prints, with a retro naïve feel. The artist, who has also worked as a fashion photographer and graphic designer, is currently working on his Animal series. See Pinterest: Goo.gl/kWdGrG →*

AUCKLAND-BASED SCULPTOR **GIDON BING** MAY WORK FROM A MODEST BOATSHED BUT HE CREATES MAGNIFICENT CERAMICS INCLUDING THE HIGH-LIP **FOOTLESS BOWLS**, FROM $56 (PLUS SHIPPING) FOR SMALL (19CM DIAMETER), GIDONBINGCERAMICS.COM

LAIDBACK LUXURY

Treat yourself to bedtime bliss, sleeping between pure linen sheets, with linen from the Netherlands, woven exclusively for Aussie brand **In The Sac**. *Bedlinen includes the* **Sac Set** *– a quilt cover, fitted sheet and two pillowcases, $550 for queen. Inthesac.com.au*

EARTH LOVE

The A5 **Memobottle** – a slimline, reusable water bottle designed to fit in your bag – aims to initiate conversation about ways we can reduce our global consumption. The 750ml bottle is $39.95 from **Top3 By Design**. Top3.com.au

BUOYANT

A play with elements to create a sculptural table base with a sense of visual lightness has resulted in the **Maiko side table**, from $791, from **Something Beginning With**. The mild steel rods of the table meet to form a sturdy yet dynamic table base. Suitable for indoor and outdoor use. Somethingbeginning with.com

FAVE FINDS

and some **more...**

AN OCTAGONAL BEACH TOWEL? WHY NOT! IT'S AS UNIQUE AS THE CULTURES AROUND THE WORLD THAT INSPIRE THE BRAND **CULTURED ME** AND ITS VARIOUS BEACH TOWEL DESIGNS FOR ADULTS AND KIDS. THE 100% COTTON TOWELS ARE PERFECT FOR A MOUNTAIN HIKE, AN OCEAN ADVENTURE OR A DAY BY THE POOL. THE STRIKING ADULT **SACAJAWEA TOWEL** IS $110. CULTUREDME.COM

Light-reflecting tones
Derring "Wading Pool" **basin**, $1100, Kohler. *44.9cm diameter; features hand-applied rutile glaze.*

ART MEETS CRAFTSMANSHIP IN THE BATHROOM WITH **KOHLER**'S HANDMADE **DERRING "WADING POOL" BASIN**. PART OF THE ARTIST EDITIONS COLLECTION, THE PATTERN COMBINED WITH GLAZE IS A STUDY IN TEXTURAL BEAUTY. KOHLER.COM.AU

text diana prichard



AN INDUSTRIAL EVOLUTION IN LIGHTING THAT'S BRILLIANT!

Our industrial inspired collection can either be batten fixed or used as a pendant, allowing you to create a timeless look in any room in your home. The affordable Brilliant lighting range is available from Bunnings Warehouse. Start creating your new look at **brilliantlighting.com.au**

*floor lamp available at independent lighting stores.

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bunnings.com.au

Brilliant



Swedish clothing chain Acne Studios commissioned renowned British architect Sophie Hicks (Sophiehicks.com) to design its newest store in the famed Gangnam precinct of Seoul, South Korea. It opened in September 2015. Translucent polypropylene walls encase a freestanding concrete structure built over two floors. "Four pairs of concrete columns hold up the roof and the upper floor. Around one of these columns winds a floating concrete staircase," Sophie says.

ACNE STUDIOS

STORE / CHEONGDAM, SEOUL

SPACE CRUSH

THE **LIGHT AND AIR OF SWEDEN** ARE EXPRESSED IN THE CLOTHING CHAIN'S LATEST STORE



Pristine presence
Working fixtures, ducts, pipes, cords and so on are all "piled up on the roof".

FOUND SIMILAR!



SPOTTED IT!



Special edition
This unisex sweatshirt was designed for the shop's launch.

"THE CONCRETE BEARS THE IMPRINT OF ROUGH TIMBER SUCH AS THAT USED TO MAKE BOARDWALKS TO THE BEACH IN THE STOCKHOLM ARCHIPELAGO," SOPHIE SAYS. "THE CLOTHING IS SHOWN AGAINST SOFTLY REFLECTIVE METAL WALLS BUT THERE IS NOT A SINGLE DECORATIVE FINISH OF A TRADITIONAL KIND."

Another world
The 230-sq-m shop has an "otherworldly atmosphere" thanks to the softly filtered daylight, fluorescent lighting from above diffused by metal grids, and the fact that the outside world is invisible. The designers have also incorporated special music effects.

79-7 Cheongdam-dong, Gangnam-gu, Seoul, South Korea. Acnestudios.com

Lean-to
Hovet aluminium framed **mirror** $199, Ikea. *78cm x 196cm.*

text john mcdonald | **photography** annabel elston







Combine concrete, exposed globes, wire frames and pale wood for an

URBAN UPDATE TO SCANDI-STYLE

JOSH & JENNA

Stars of Channel 9's The Block & Reno Rumble

A. Reuben Pendants in ash wood with black metal wire. Coolie *(left)* $199, Large *(right)* $199. Also available in white wire. **B.** Liam *(top right)* Table lamp with ash wood base and clear glass shade $169. **Edison** Table lamps in ash wood. Cone *(top left)*, Cylinder *(bottom left)*, Rectangle *(bottom right)* $89.95 ea. Karbon decorative filament globes from $15.95 sold separately. **C. Odense** 1 light pendants in ash wood with frosted glass shade. Small Coolie *(left)* $269, Large Cone *(middle)* $209. Also available in Small Cone $199 and Large Coolie $289. **Monte** *(right)* 1 light pendant in teak or walnut with chalk finish shade $149ea.

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WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

1. HANGING LEMON BEAUTY VINE IN POT $140, 2. RAPA NUI STATUE SMALL $49, 3. CANDY THE FLAMINGO $49, 4. ORIGINAL DESIGN TAN/GARBARINO TRIPOD DINING TABLE $1350, 5. THE MATT BLATT ARBOR ROUND OTTOMAN $1295, 6. RORY THE RHINO $350, 7. BAKARI RUG 160 X 230 $395, 8. CALLISTO FABRIC ARMCHAIR $995,9. OLA VELVET CUSHION $59, 10. RAPA NUI STATUE LARGE $69, 11. BANANA TREE $395, 12. THE MATT BLATT BIG APPLE 3 SEATER SOFA $2495, 13. COWHIDE RUG - STENCILLED ZEBRA (BLACK & BEIGE) $695, 14. TUB POT LARGE $55. 15. ROCKY SET OF 2 TABLES $495, 16. WIRE CACTUS SHAPE $24, 17. SWEETIE PARROT $45, 18. DUSTY FEATHER CUSHION $38, 19. HUGO HOT PINK CUSHION $59, 20. LEROY THE LION BY MULGA - CANVAS $39, 21. HERBERT THE GORILLA BY MULGA - CANVAS $39, 22. MICHAEL THE MAGICAL OWL BY MULGA - CANVAS $39, 23. SNAPPY THE CROCODILE $285, 24. DRAPER VASE $68, 25. VITRA JAR LARGE $120.
FEATURED IN LOGO: BRENDAN THE BRONTOSAURUS PLANTER $45.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING
ON THE 'GRAM

INSTA INSPIRE

HERE ARE SOME OF OUR **FAVE PEOPLE** ON INSTAGRAM – AND WHERE TO BUY WHAT'S IN THEIR POSTS, TOO!



@PELLAHEDEBY
Salon hangs, freshly crumpled bedlinen, budding magnolias… We'll have what Swedish interior stylist Pella is doing! Check out her divine, sublime, streamlined interior posts.

@THEFAMILYLOVETREE IT'S ALL ABOUT #LOVE AT THE FAMILY LOVE TREE, WHICH SUPPORTS CRAFTSPEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD. 'GRAMS INCLUDE GORGIE RETRO, MODERN, COLOURFUL FURNITURE AND HOMEWARES.





Fresh outdoors
1950s Zig Zag patio **chair**, $395, The Family Love Tree.

@CULTDESIGNAU
Take a seat and scroll through pics of simply beautiful designer chairs – including the Magis "Air-Chair" (pictured here in Dark Green) – in all sorts of inspired settings, as well as other fine things. #bestseatinthehouse





@THEDESIGNCHASER MICHELLE HALFORD CHASES GOOD DESIGN TO SHARE, AND STYLES AND WRITES ABOUT IT, TOO. FOR A DAILY DOSE, LOOK NO FURTHER.



Mobile table
Normann Copenhagen "Block" **table** in Light Grey, $445, Designstuff.



@VIKTORIAANDWOODS
WHAT TO WEAR? FOR EFFORTLESS WARDROBE STAPLES WITH A PARED-BACK, CONTEMPORARY FEEL, FIND LOTS OF INSPO ON THIS FASHION LABEL'S INSTA.

@DUNLINHOME
TAKE A PEEK BEHIND THE SCENES AT ONLINE LIGHTING AND HOMEWARES STORE DUNLIN, AND SEE WHAT INSPIRES THE TEAM. IT'S TRAVEL, ART, MUSIC AND INTERIORS, OF COURSE, ESPECIALLY THOSE FEATURING ITEMS LIKE ITS SAFARI DAYBED.





White piping
Signature Basic **cushion** in Aina Grey (48cm), $45, Lamb & Stine.





Minimal practical
Hay "Tray" **table** in Black, $530, The Minimalist. *60cm x 60cm.*

@LAMBANDSTINE *Cushy, cushy, cushy, it's a cushion world! Swing by this feed for a feast of lovely #linen soft furnishings and bedlinen, handmade in Brissie, and snapped in gorgeous interior settings. There's yum breakfast inspiration, too – poppyseed and lemon crepes anyone? #mmm*

LOCALS ONLY

"MODERN BOHEMIAN" CASSANDRA LANGBIEN'S HOMEWARES BRAND **TRIBE & CO** HAS AN EMPHASIS ON **QUALITY AND UNIQUENESS**

ONE



Cushions from top: Flame, Lattice, Linen Stitch, and Linen Pleat, from $120 each.

TWO



Alfajor **cushion** in Apricot, from $120, and Merino Wool **rug**, from $315 a sq m.

TRIBE & CO CAME ABOUT after travelling through the different provinces of Argentina and spending time in the communities and tribes of indigenous people. The artisanal products vary from area to area, each is uniquely rich and full of culture, and it wasn't long before I fell in love with them; Tribe & Co was born.
I STARTED AS a wholesaler as I was still based in Argentina, however now I will be basing myself in Australia, with stockists in Melbourne and Sydney as well as an online component.
MY PHILOSOPHY IS SIMPLE: represent and showcase the beautiful and unique handmade products of South American countries in Australia. It's a big world out there, so it's nice to have items that have a story to them and that come from a place far away!
I MAINLY SOURCE products in Argentina. I've been lucky enough to find some really amazing local people who design pieces with a modern mindset and combine that aesthetic with traditional practices and materials which are sourced and produced within the country. All the products are hand-dyed and handwoven.

[**ABOUT CASSANDRA**]

AFTER TRAVELLING AND LIVING A "GYPSY LIFE" FOR THE PAST 12 MONTHS, CASSANDRA IS EXCITED TO DECORATE HER OWN PLACE.
TRIBEANDCOLIVING.COM

CASSANDRA LANGBIEN
HOMEWARES BRAND OWNER

interview karlie verkerk | **photography** maree homer

FOR AN EXTRA ELEMENT OF INTEREST AND CHARACTER, MIX AND MATCH TILE DESIGNS AND COLOURS ON THE WALL AND FLOOR

BEAUT BRICKS

Create a modern, tranquil space with **Signorino Tile Gallery**'s new versatile series of tiles, Brick Design



Want to add texture and interest to your home? Signorino Tile Gallery's new Brick Design tile collection offers just this. Available in six colours, the Brick Design tiles are suitable for both walls and floors. The tactile structure of the tiles give finished surfaces movement and variety, transforming spaces with a modern, sophisticated air. An ideal wall and floor solution for every lifestyle.

CARBONE NAT, 6X25

SETA NAT, 6X25

GESSO NAT, 6X25

EMIL CERAMICA SIGNORINO

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Signorino Tile Gallery 484 Church St, Richmond, VIC 3121. **Signorino Stone Gallery** 1 Taras Ave, Altona North, VIC 3025 (appointment only).

GRITTY PRETTY

This month, stylist Jackie Brown has teamed up with **Super Amart** to demonstrate how to style a warehouse space with a feminine touch

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with Super Amart

DO MORE WITH LESS:

- Use books as a decorative display – group them by colour to suit your scheme.
- In the bedroom, use a stool as a bedside table.
- Loosely twist your curtains to bunch them together and let the sun shine.







CREATE CONTRAST WITH RAW TIMBER AND PRETTY PINK ACCENTS.

What are the key elements of a pretty warehouse space?
A beautiful timber bed is essential. I love the Trillian queen bed because it has storage drawers and shelves built into the base. The timber bedhead is on trend right now too.
Where do you start? Once you've got your industrial-style timber bed, you need to think about bedlinen. To balance the rawness of the timber, go for pretty sheets in the palest dusty pink. I love pure linen for its crumpled look. Then add cushions and a throw in a deeper pinky hue.

What about other furniture pieces?
Storage is a must in the bedroom, and a shelving unit with cabinets is perfect – you can display your favourite homewares and pretty toiletries and hide everything else behind the cupboard doors.
How do you accessorise the look?
Concrete and copper look amazing with pink as well as with the exposed brick and timber of the warehouse style, so use lamps and homewares in these materials. Black accents work, too – for example, a side stool or in an artwork – to complete the look.



City2 3 Door 3 tier **bookcase**, $599.95. Rocket 46cm **stool**, $44.95. Trillian queen **bed**, $999.

For more information or to shop online, visit **superamart.com.au**

Print me pretty!
The All Eyes On Me longsleeve shirt dress (left), and Kumasi Yede mini skirt are pretty and playful.

Bright & bold
Red Stairs duvet set (far left); Boxy T and Front Split pencil skirt in Blue Red Oval from the new Yevu range.

Colourful cat
What's not to smile about! Anna's clothing range is cool *and* socially conscious.

Best colour
Orange is Anna's fave hue, which features a lot in her label.

Light traveller
Anna's Edward Gilbert wallet stores everything she needs for the day.

Dream holiday?
"Places I haven't visited yet; São Tomé and Príncipe, island paradises just off the West African coastline."

ANNA ROBERTSON
YEVU

WHO ARE YOU

FIND OUT WHAT MAKES OUR **FAVOURITE CREATIVES** TICK

Wanted artwork
Anna wants anything by Emma Finneran, an emerging artist from Sydney.

ANNA ROBERTSON, OWNER OF SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE CLOTHING LABEL YEVU

WHILE WORKING IN GHANA, ANNA WAS INSPIRED BY THE COLOURS AND PATTERNS OF WEST AFRICAN TEXTILES SO MUCH SO THAT SHE STARTED A CLOTHING LABEL CALLED YEVU, WHICH GENERATES INCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GHANAIANS LIVING ON THE POVERTY LINE. FYI, YEVU TRANSLATES TO "CRAFTY DOG", A NAME LOCALS CALL FOREIGNERS

Where did you grow up? "Mosman, Sydney."

What did you want to be when you were younger? "A singer. I loved Bette Midler."

Were you a creative kid? "Not particularly. I liked dressing beyond my age, though. I wore red lipstick to kindy every day."

How did you get to where you are now? "Hard work, a bit of luck and a whole lot of help."

What are you currently working on? "Selling the new Yevu range that I just spent four months in Ghana producing with our team of micro producers and micro enterprise partners."

Where do you often find inspiration? "In the streets and marketplace of Accra – Ghana's heaving and chaotic capital city."

The book on your bedside table? "*The Shadow Of The Sun* by Ryszard Kapuscinski. His adventures around Africa over the course of four decades are inspiring and exciting."

What are you listening to? "A lot of disco and soul over summer. I've got *Nomalizo* by Letta Mbulu on repeat right now."

Most inspiring space you've ever walked into? "The Mark Rothko room at the Tate – it blew my 19-year-old mind. I sat in the space for a good couple of hours."

Best ever fashion or home find? "A Rick Owens bomber jacket from early 2000s in East London's Storm In A Teacup."

What fashion item are you loving right now? "I'm wearing a lot of the new Yevu range. The wide-leg pant and mini skirts in a riot of different prints are so fun."

Strangest place you've found inspiration? "In a German-built castle on the west coast of Ghana."

What's your signature dish? "Pea salad with goat's cheese and fresh mint and basil."

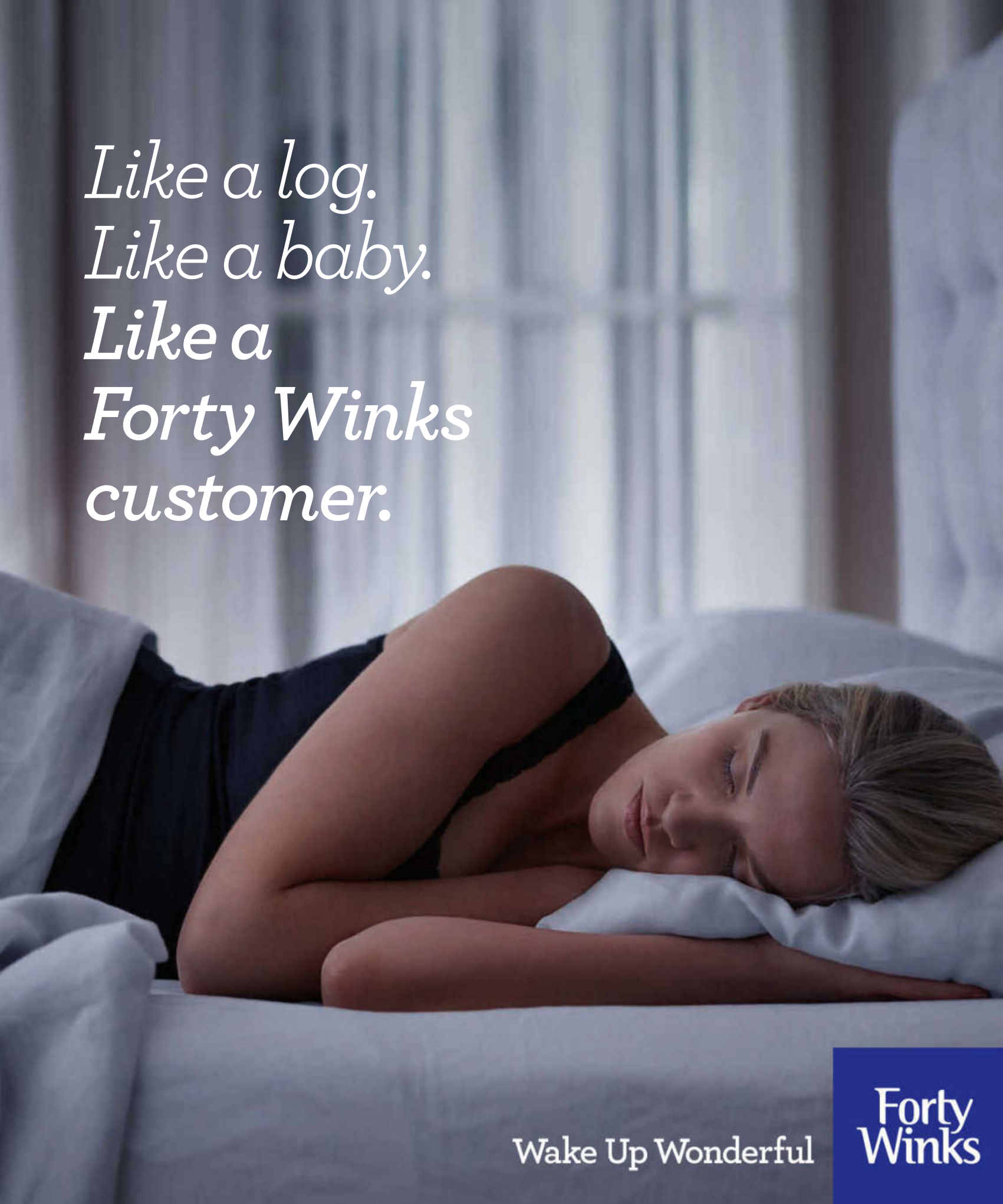
You, in five years' time? "Running a sustainable social enterprise in West Africa that has moved beyond socially responsible clothing and has a bigger impact on the people we're working with."

What's in your handbag? "I don't use handbags. I prefer to carry everything in my big Edward Gilbert wallet because I like to travel light. I can fit my phone, keys, cash and comb in there and that's all I need!"

The quality do you admire most in others? "Integrity." ●

Visit Yevuclothing.com to find out where the Yevu pop-up stores will, ahem, pop up next.

photography isabella moore (anna); francis kokoroko (yevu range); gettyimages.com.au (island) | **styling** daniel quist (yevu range)


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Like a baby.
Like a
Forty Winks
customer.
Wake Up Wonderful
Forty
Winks



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FLORENTINE: THE TRUE CUISINE OF FLORENCE
by EMIKO DAVIES (256pp)

Did you know that the good people of Florence aren't as big on dessert as other Italians? That's just one of the interesting facts to be found in this handsome hardback, chock full of the true recipes of the city, many of which date back centuries. Part travel guide, part cookbook, part photo essay, this is a keeper. *Hardie Grant; $49.95.*

LOOKBOOKS

HERE'S A **BUNCH OF BEAUTIFUL BOOKS** YOUR COFFEE TABLE WILL THANK YOU FOR

BEST KITCHEN BASICS
by MARK BEST (266pp)

"The renowned Aussie chef presents a 'compendium' of treats that are all easy to make but still occasionally 'cheffy'. I can't wait to give them a go. Separated into chapters by ingredient and sprinkled with excellent tips, it's a good read, too." *Hardie Grant; $59.95.*



STAFF PICK
CHIEF SUB ELLE



SUPERNORMAL
by ANDREW McCONNELL (240pp)

Melbourne, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Tokyo. These metropolises come together in a dining venue and book of the same name, by a master of the trade. A fascinating look into the world of restaurants and Asian cuisine. The photographs are by Earl Carter. *Hardie Grant; $60.*



LIFE HACKS
by ANNABEL STAFF (64pp)

Here are 30 tricks to solving everyday problems. Learn how to stop people from stealing your pens, how to keep your flies done up, how to tell your keys apart… and how to prevent drips from your icy-pole! The images are extremely punchy. *Murdoch Books, $16.99.*





BOOK CASES: FROM SALVAGE TO STORAGE
by AURÉLIE DROUET (192pp)

Tools at the ready for 14 original DIY bookcase projects from 12 European designers. The projects are clearly stepped out with photos and diagrams. Degree of difficulty ranges from kind of complex to simplicity itself – but all are distinctive, functional and COOL. *Thames & Hudson; $45.*



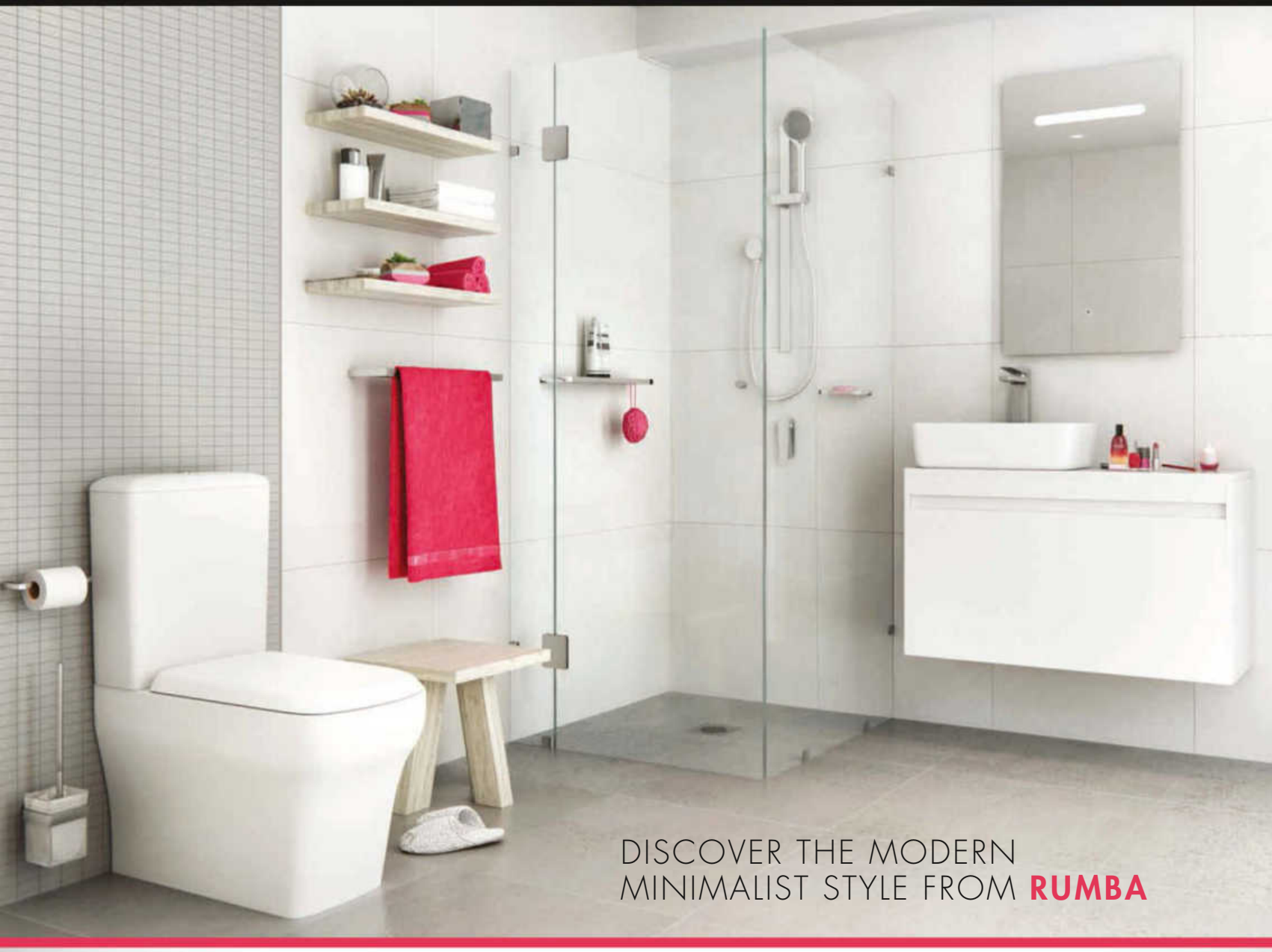
HELLO TOYKO
by EBONY BIZYS (224pp)

This book, from the Australian creator of Japanese craft-art blog Hello Sandwich, is a playful insight on living a cute, compact life in Tokyo. Think craft projects meets home decor meets city guide, with a few entertaining tips thrown in for good measure. *Murdoch Books; $35.*

text john mcdonald | **photography** bauer photographics

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PROJECT Washi tape decal

Step 1 Wash chosen area of wall with sugar soap and allow to dry.

Step 2 Make the outline of a large geometric pattern using washi tape and ruler or measuring tape to create triangles, rectangles and other shapes of your liking.

Step 3 Use scissors to trim ends of washi tape where they meet.

Step 4 Create interest inside some shapes by taping lines of various thickness and direction; leave a few shapes empty.

Step 5 Continue until you are happy with the overall look of the pattern. Trim any overhanging washi tape ends for a crisp look.

PROJECT MT **Washi Tape** in Matte Black, $5 for a 10m roll (we used 3 rolls), Papier D'Amour. **THE REST** Strut **console table** in Watermelon, $799, Blu Dot. **ON TABLE** Tall cement **gem** in Raw, $29.95, and Swan **planter** in White, $39.95, Design Twins. For similar artificial **plant**, try Fejka **plant**, $5.99, Ikea. *Simplicity* **book** by Nancy Braithwaite, $75, and *Kate Moss* **book**, $120, Nathan + Jac. Skateboard **sculpture** in Black, $179, BoConcept. Blacklist *Crazy Beautiful* framed **print**, $150, The Minimalist. **ON FLOOR** Twiggargarie "Twig" **cubes** in Black/White, $130 for set of 2, Nathan + Jac. Senso Lifestyle Vinyl **flooring** in Nordic White, $17.96 a sq m (installed), Gerflor. *For stockists, see page 175.*



YOU WILL NEED

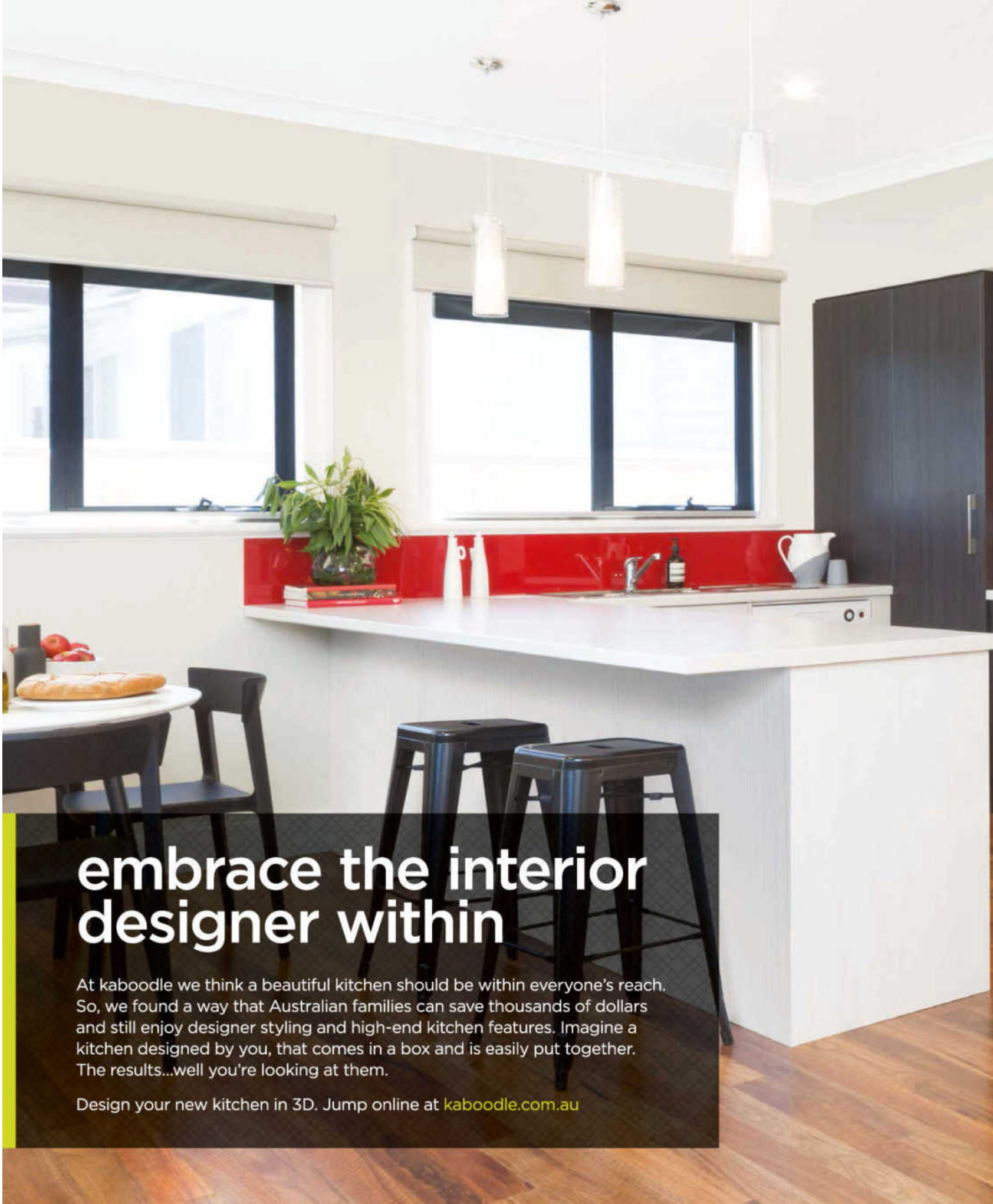
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styling assistants henriette gabreal & kate leabeater



embrace the interior designer within

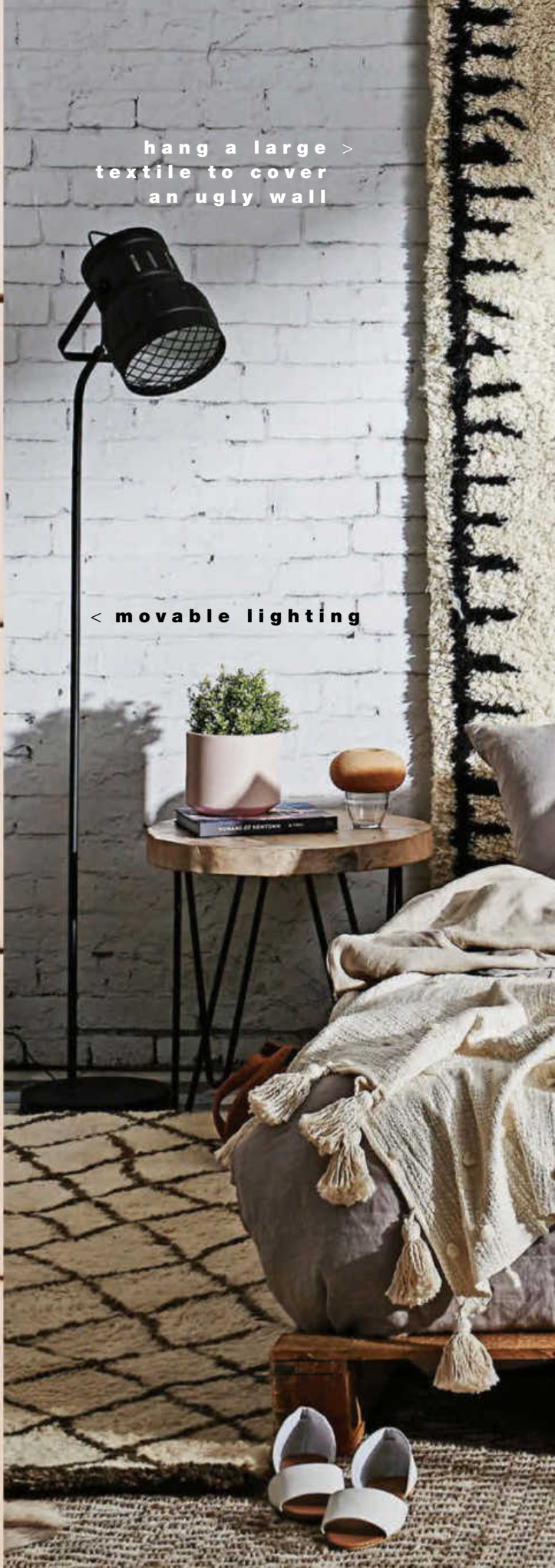
At kaboodle we think a beautiful kitchen should be within everyone's reach. So, we found a way that Australian families can save thousands of dollars and still enjoy designer styling and high-end kitchen features. Imagine a kitchen designed by you, that comes in a box and is easily put together. The results...well you're looking at them.

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easy fix

introduce personality and style into a rental space with these clever ideas – a bit of creativity goes a long way



boho dreaming

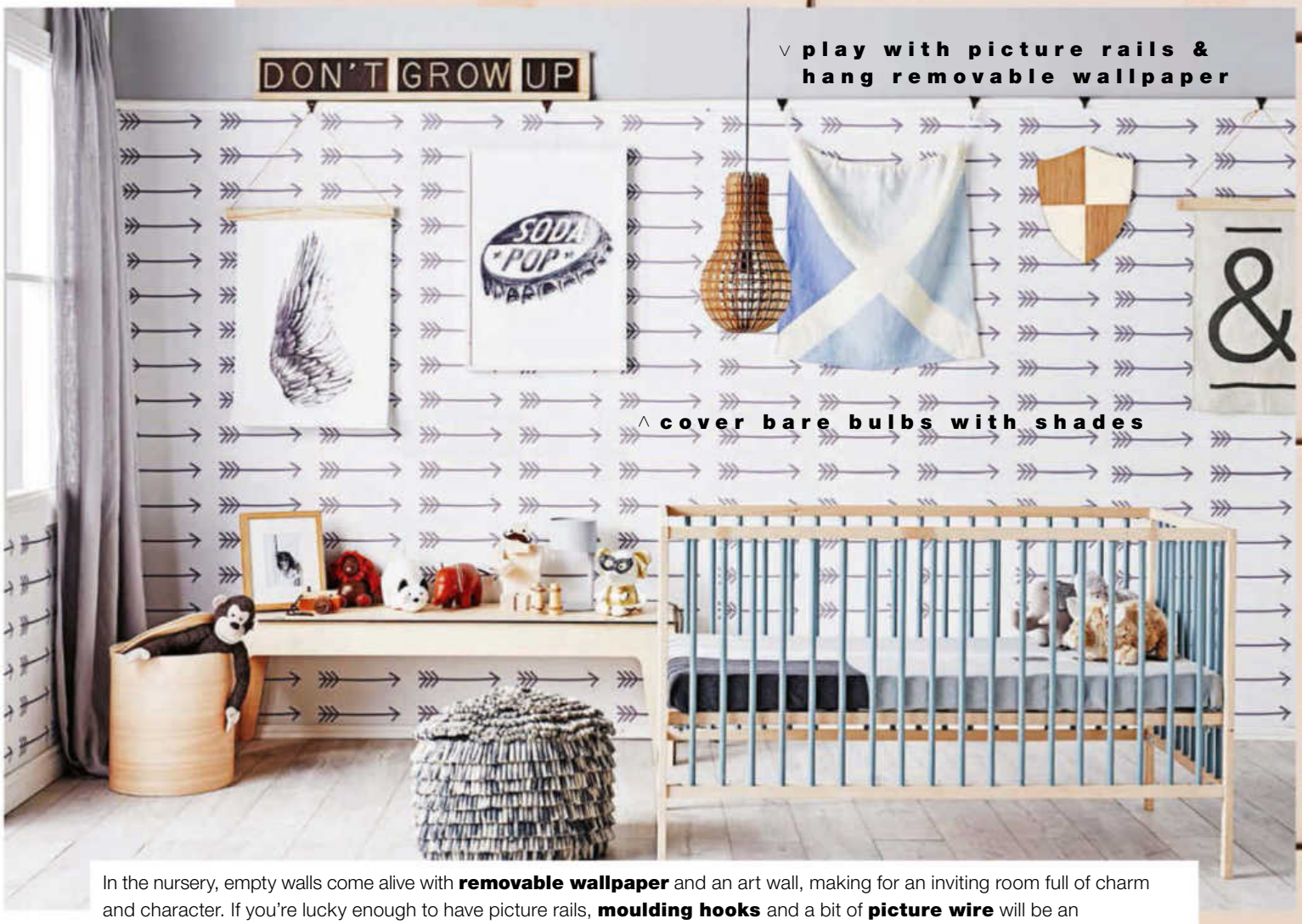
Take inspiration from further afield and cover your walls and floors with **tribal-inspired textiles**. A large **rug hung on the wall** creates a plush bedhead and fills the blank space above the bed; hang it off a rod by stitching hooks or loops of cord along the top of the rug, then hang the rod from two removable hooks. On the floor, **layer woven and shag rugs** with hides over worn floorboards or unsightly carpet for a laid-back vibe and welcoming texture underfoot. →

Native oasis **Bed base** made from upcycled pallets. Klion **side table**, $229, and Low slat wood **crates** in Brown Wash, $129.80 for set of 2, Citta Design. Lense **floor lamp**, $149, Freedom. Old Town shopper **basket**, $44.90, Citta Design; holding **fiddle leaf fig** from Bunnings. Aina **curtains** in Beige, $59.99 a pair, Ikea. **ON BED** Pure French linen **sheet set** in Natural, $389, I Love Linen. Sove linen **duvet cover** in Ash, $289 for queen, linen **pillowcases** in Ecru, $69.90 a pair, Soala woven **throw**, $159, and Dada lumbar **cushion cover** with fringe, $54.90, Citta Design. Tan buffalo leather **cushion**, $299, Life Interiors. **ON TABLE** *Humans Of Newtown* **book** by Jo Wallace, $39.95, Books Kinokuniya. Fredrik medium **pot** in Blush, $44, Life Interiors. YA Pas Le Feu Au Lac "Donut Shape" cork **vase**, $69.95, Top3 By Design. **ON CRATES** Assorted **books** from Books Kinokuniya. Rectangle glass shadow **box**, $59, West Elm. For similar **sunglasses**, try Rubi Shoes. **ON WALL** White Brick removable **mural** (65cm x 2.5m), $89.95, The Wall Sticker Company. Mudcloth handknotted wool **rug** (1.75m x 2.5m), $1490, Citta Design. **ON FLOOR** Beni Moroccan **rug** (1.5m x 2.1m), $699, Olli Ella. Sinai **rug** in Wheat (1.6m x 2.3m), $625, and **Cowhide** in Exotic, $704, Vavoom. Dusk Peep **shoes** in White, $19.95, Rubi Shoes.

v hidden storage

v layer rugs on the floor

sweet retreat



In the nursery, empty walls come alive with **removable wallpaper** and an art wall, making for an inviting room full of charm and character. If you're lucky enough to have picture rails, **moulding hooks** and a bit of **picture wire** will be an indispensable addition to your kit. A mix of prints on **hangers**, **framed work** and **banners** with a common theme or colour will work well in a group hang. Cover bare lightbulbs with new shades or **replace pendants** with ones that match your decor and switch them back when you move out. And since you can't paint the walls, consider **painting the furniture**. →

Play it cool Sniglar **cot** in Beech, $99, Ikea; bars painted in Porter's Paints eggshell acrylic in **Explorer Blue**, $26.50 for 500ml. Panca Corta **bench**, $645, and Pinketta **storage basket**, $425, Plyroom; holding Long Limbs **monkey**, $49.90, Citta Design. Aveva **pouf** in Grey, $581, and Suck UK "Wooden Bulb" **pendant light**, $249, Top3 By Design. Vivan **curtains** in Grey, $14.99 a pair, Ikea. **IN COT** Assorted **toys** from Citta Design. Kate & Kate "Charlie Classic" **throw** in Skyblue, $129, Life Interiors. **ON BENCH** FROM LEFT Via Martine "Model" **card**, $29 for set of 9, Norsu Interiors; inside Madison **frame** in Oak, $24.95, Freedom. Wooden **camera** in Camel with zoom, $60, Plyroom. **Bookends**: Zuny **Orangutan**, $89.90, **Cat**, $85, and **Elephant**, $79.90, Top3 By Design. Woodstache **man** in Natural, $99.90, Top3 By Design. Heritage **binoculars**, $65, Plyroom. Milk & Sugar "Piccolo" **table lamp**, $99.95, Hunting For George. Zuny "Zircus" elephant **bookend**, $115, Top3 By Design. **ON WALL** Arrows removable **wallpaper** (2.5m x 65cm), $89.95, The Wall Sticker Company. 12x1 Message Me **board**, from $120, One Two Tree. Picture hanging moulding **hooks** in Florentine Bronze, $3.65 for pack of 4, Bunnings. The Art **hanger** (also at far right), $45 each, One Two Tree; holding Magdalena Tyboni *Ikaros* **print**, from $45, Norsu Interiors. *Soda Pop* **print**, $79, Hunting For George; inside Ribba **frame** in White, $49.99, Ikea. Nautical linen **flag** in M2, $115, One Two Tree. Wall **shield** in Gold/Timber, $99, Creativemuster.etsy.com. Linen Print "&" **banner**, $89, One Two Tree. **ON FLOOR** Livyn Essential vinyl **flooring** in Patina Oak Light White, $34 a sq m (supply only), Quick-Step.



Bring **greenery** into your bathroom to freshen up tired or older-style finishes. Pop individual **potted plants**, or matching pairs, on the floor, cistern, vanity or windowsill. **Plant stands** are perfect for filling corners and lifting focus off the ground, as are **hanging plants**. Plant killer? Fake it till you make it! **Artificial plants** look very realistic nowadays and don't require soil so they're much lighter and easier to move around. If you're lacking shelving, a **mobile unit** on castors will provide handy extra storage. As a renter, **washi tape** is your friend; use it to tape up prints or cards on blank walls or even behind the toilet door. →

Green peace Cottage shelving **unit**, $1599, Freedom. Perrin & Rowe "Art Deco" **toilet**, $1958, **toilet seat**, $625, **pedestal**, $662, **basin**, $1151, and 3-hole **basin set**, $1453, The English Tapware Co. Ivy Muse "Nightshade Empire" **plant stand**, $169, and Uashmama "Classic" **bag**, $24, Life Interiors; holding artificial **plant** from Always Green Plants. Brass **hanging planter**, $39, Life Interiors; holding artificial **vine**. **ON UNIT** FROM TOP Claro **vessels**, from $39.95 for small, and Pomona **vase**, $2.95, Freedom. Fredrik **pot**, $69, Life Interiors; holding **fiddle leaf fig** from Bunnings. Franklin **table lamp**, $89, Freedom. Rolling Flowerpot **pots**, from $75 for medium, BoConcept; holding Fejka artificial **plants**, $5.99 each, Ikea. Lolita mini **vase set**, $34.95, Pomona **vases**, from $1.95 each, Freedom. Marley **basket**, $29, Life Interiors; holding Scindapsus Green **hanging plant**, $24.99, Bond's Nursery. Cadet leather **wash bag**, $199, Citta Design. Mesh **basket**, $39.95, Freedom; holding Cialda **bath sheets**, $44.90 each, Citta Design. Paterson folding **box**, $19.95, Freedom; holding Cialda **hand towel** in, $14.90, Citta Design. **ON BASIN** Foliage **staghorn**, $34.95, and Barber **soap dispenser**, $24.95, Freedom. **ON TOILET** Ivy Muse "Nest" **plant stand**, $160, Life Interiors; holding **plant** from Bunnings. **ON WALL** Perrin & Rowe "Deco" **toilet roll holder**, $295, The English Tapware Co; holding Black 3-ply **toilet roll**, $22 for pack of 6, Renova Australia. Perrin & Rowe "Deco" **hand towel ring**, $295, The English Tapware Co; holding Cialda **hand towel**, as before. Round **mirror**, $19, Kmart. Via Martine "Model" **cards**, $29 for set of 9, Norsu Interiors. Chronicles **deck**, $129.95, Art Club Concept. Pantone **postcard set**, $32.59 for 100, Books Kinokuniya. Histrorix **gift tags**, $1.69 for 10, Ikea. Grid removable **wallpaper** (2.5m x 65cm), $89.95, The Wall Sticker Company. **WALL PAINT** Taubmans Endure in **Black Fox**, $83.95 for 4L.

nature calling

text hana jó | **photography** brett stevens | **styling** jackie brown
styling assistants jacinda martin, bridget maloney, kate leabeater & henriette gabreal



v **display your stuff – stack it, lean it, group it**

^ **books = instant shelf**

< **area rug to cover yucky flooring**

< plug-in lighting

slipcovers for furniture >

living pretty

Crisp **white walls** in a rental property are a godsend – they are the perfect backdrop to **suit any style** so keep an eye out for them! Get off the hook and add personality by displaying collections of **framed artworks**. Simply lean them **against the wall** on a low bench, floating shelf, mantel or even stacks of matching books or magazines for instant interest. An **area rug** groups pieces together and works with the colour scheme, even if the original floors don't, while **removable slipcovers** and a fresh line up of cushions allows for a change of colour and texture.

Monochrome classic Joe 2200 **sofa** with arms in Smoke, $2850, and **armchair** in Smoke, $1350, MCM House. Chicago **armchair** in Light Grey Weave with Walnut legs, $799, Life Interiors. Iron Frame **coffee table** with wooden top, $1390, and Low slat wood **crate**, $129.80 for set of 2, Citta Design. Lack **wall shelf** in Black/Brown, $49.99, Ikea. **ON SOFA & ARMCHAIRS** Smoke **cushions** included with sofa and armchair. Dolce linen **cushion covers** in Light Cocoa, $59.90 each, and No.5 Fringed **cushion cover** in Coffee, $69.90, Citta Design. **ON COFFEE TABLE** Charcoal **vases**, from $40 each, Contents ID. **ON CRATE** Hexagon **table lamp**, $629, BoConcept. **ON SHELF** FROM LEFT Stretched **canvas**, $40.90, Bunnings. Via Martine *Face* unframed **poster**, $40, Norsu Interiors; inside Ribba **frame**, $49.99, Ikea. *City Of Light 2* unframed photographic **artwork**, $299, BoConcept. **ON MANTEL** *Red Alert* **artwork**, $575, Contents ID. *Dream Neon* **wall light**, $299, Freedom. Vintage **cameras** from market. **ON FLOOR** *City Speaks* framed **print**, $299, Freedom. Brooklyn Bridge **artwork**, $410, Contents ID. Assorted Penguin Classic **books**, from Books Kinokuniya. Sierra Weave **rug** in Charcoal (2m x 3m), $1565, Life Interiors. **WALL PAINT** Dulux Wash & Wear in **Natural White**, $71.90 for 4L. *For stockists, see page 175.*

BEHIND THE SCENES
Head to our Facebook page at Facebook.com/reallivingmagazine to see a video of how stylist Jackie put together this shoot.



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SHOP



68 WORK ORDER MAKE YOUR ROOM DO DOUBLE DUTY BY CREATING A STYLISH OFFICE NOOK WITH SUPER-CLEVER STORAGE SOLUTIONS
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DOUBLE DUTY ROOMS

Make your room do double duty with a handy **storage-filled office nook**. Check out these cool and creative work spaces

bedroom//study









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Art tread Big Nest floating **cabinets**, $499 each, Plyroom. Bookrest **shelves** (we used 3 end-to-end), $140 each, Work Shop Objects. Marco wire **chair**, $119, Clickon Furniture. Tahti Iron **pendant lights**, $149.90 each, Valo Design. **ON CABINETS** Spotty storage **boxes** in Black and White, $45 each, BoConcept. Coloured **pencils**, $7.95 for 12, Officeworks. Fullfölja **tape dispenser**, $2.99, and **scissors** (just seen above), $4.99, Ikea. Good Morning Co **bike calendar** 2016, $53.50, Havn H. Memo **notepad**, $5.95, Officeworks. Metal **tealight holders** in Plum and Teal (holding tacks), $15 each, BoConcept. **Hourglass**, $29, Zakkia. **ON SHELF** Assorted **books** from Opus Design Co, The Minimalist and Books Kinokuniya. Välbekant **clipboard**, $6.99, Ikea. **ON BED** Linen **quilt cover set** in Deep Blue Chambray, $315 for queen, I Love Linen. **Book** from Books Kinokuniya. **Fiddle leaf fig** from Seasonal Concepts. **ON WALL** Chalkboard **calendar**, $89.95, The Wall Sticker Company. **ON FLOOR** Menu wire **bin**, $129, Top3 By Design. Minus Tio "In The Neighbourhood" **mag rack**, $199, Top3 By Design; holding assorted **books** from Opus Design Co. Street Art **tiles**, $147.93 a sq m, Beaumont Tiles. →





Tilt it Hilver/Lerberg **desks** in Bamboo/White, $129 each, Ikea. Marina plywood counter **stools** in Ash, $249 each, Life Interiors. Bellantonio rotating **drawers**, $1020, Plyroom. Road **bicycle** from Bicyclesonline.com.au. Ilta Triangle **pendant light**, $119.90, Valo Design. **ON DESKS** FROM LEFT Rimforsa bamboo **tablet stand**, $14.99, Ikea; holding PLTY **notepad**, $20, The Minimalist. **Monitor stand**, $215, Work Shop Objects; holding MacBook Air **laptop** from Apple, and Kvissle **box** with lid in Cork/White (comes as set of 4 different sizes), $19.99, Ikea. Living **mouse pad** in Brown Leather, $119, BoConcept. Waxed **pencil holders**, $45 each, Work Shop Objects; holding **pencils** from Officeworks. Midori "Pasco" **folders**, $39.90 for A4, $59.90 for A3, Top3 By Design. **Monitor stand**, **laptop** and Kvissle **boxes**, as before. Living **dish** in Oak, $99, BoConcept. Masonite **clipboard**, $7.47, Officeworks; displaying inspirational **pictures**. Kraft A4 **boxes**, $7 each, Officeworks. **ON WALL** Wall Rest **hooks**, $25 each, Work Shop Objects. Hanging **bookcase**, $375, Plyroom. **Clipboards**, as before. **Chipboard**, from hardware store. **ON HOOK** Bamu canvas **backpack**, $249, Citta Design. **ON BOOKCASE** Assorted **books** from Opus Design Co. Universo Positivo **pencil holder**, $75, Clickon Furniture. **Skateboard** sculpture, $179, BoConcept. Hemsmak **string**, $8.99 for set of 3, Ikea. →

BEHIND THE SCENES
Head to our Facebook page at Facebook.com/reallivingmagazine for a video of stylist Jackie's styling tips.

SHAPELY SHELVES, HOOKS AND VESSELS TURN A GARAGE INTO A STYLISH OFFICE SPACE, TOO. AN INEXPENSIVE CHIPBOARD WALL MAKES IT EASY TO CHANGE THINGS UP



photography chris warnes | **styling** jackie brown | **styling assistants** cate bignall, henriette gabreal, rosie gallen, callum agnew & corina koch

garage//workspace



IN THE HUB OF THE HOME, NEXT TO THIS OPEN-PLAN KITCHEN AND DINING AREA, A NOOK IS TRANSFORMED INTO A WORKSPACE WITH A SIMPLE DESK AND BOOKSHELVES

kitchen//office nook





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Handy hub Harto "Simone" **bookcase**, $1458, Victor **desk**, $1512, and Sketch "Tami" **chairs** in Dusty Blue, $295 each, Clickon Furniture. Sean Dix "Tokyo Forte" **dining table**, $1025, Life Interiors. Chelsea **pendant light**, $695, Clickon Furniture. **KITCHEN** Bergstena **worktop**, $120, Domsjö inset **sink**, $199, Ringskär **mixer tap**, $79, and assorted **cabinetry** with Marsta fronts, Ikea. **ON BOOKCASE** Large Boxy concrete **pot**, $99, Life Interiors. Tivoli "Model 3" **clock radio**, $399, Top3 By Design. Tube **table lamp**, $289, Clickon Furniture. Quintessential marble **shapes**, $160 for 5, The Minimalist. Assorted **books** from Opus Design Co and Books Kinokuniya. Circle **clock**, $229, BoConcept. Small Boxy concrete **pot**, $59, Life Interiors. **ON DESK iPhone** and Mac **computer** from Apple. Living **iPhone holder**, $79, BoConcept. Pencil **tray**, $90, Clickon Furniture. Oyoy leather **mouse pad**, $34, Top3 By Design. **Stationery** from Officeworks. **ON TABLE** Living **iPad holder**, $95, BoConcpet; holding **iPad** from Apple. Milk & Sugar "Angus" marble **bowl**, $24, Life Interiors. Muuto "Elevated" **vase** (holding **flowering gum**), $199, Top3 By Design. **ON BENCHTOP** Ivy Muse "Nest" **planter**, $160, Life Interiors; holding artificial **vine**. *Kortkartellet New "E"* **print**, $62, Havn H; inside Ribba **frame**, $49.99, Ikea. Menu "Bottle" **grinder set** of 2, $130, The Minimalist. Milk & Sugar "Angus" marble **bowl**, as before, and **paddle**, $49, Life Interiors. Triangular concrete **box**, $41, BoConcept. Arbour **cake stand**, $159.50, Top3 By Design. **ON WALL** Belt **clock**, $149, Life Interiors. Harto "Linette" **shelf system**, $340 each, Clickon Furniture; displaying Kinfolk **cards**, $34.95 for 12, Opus Design Co, Brass **jar**, $90 for 2, Zakkia, and Rectangular concrete **pot**, $49, Life Interiors. **ON FLOOR** Dandelion **rug** (1.55m dia), $475, Armadillo&Co. Essential vinyl **flooring** in Patina Oak Light White, $34 a sq m (supply only), Quick-Step. *For stockists, see page 175.*

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HOMES

76 THE NEW NOIR AFTER RENOVATING A LOFT APARTMENT, DOROTHEE SETS HER SIGHTS ON A NEW PROJECT **86 STACKS OF COLOUR** A PLAYFUL TAKE ON A FAMILY-FRIENDLY HOME **94 MATERIAL GIRL** THIS DESIGNER KNOWS ALL ABOUT BALANCING STYLE AND BUDGET **104 FROM SCANDI TO KENSO WITH LOVE** A SYDNEY APARTMENT TAKES ON A NORDIC SUMMER-HOUSE FEEL

Foot tappin' Sleek lines and graphic tones dominate in Dorothee's home, along with new and vintage pieces including a Mickey Mouse artwork, found online, and a secondhand chest. *Flip the page for more.* →



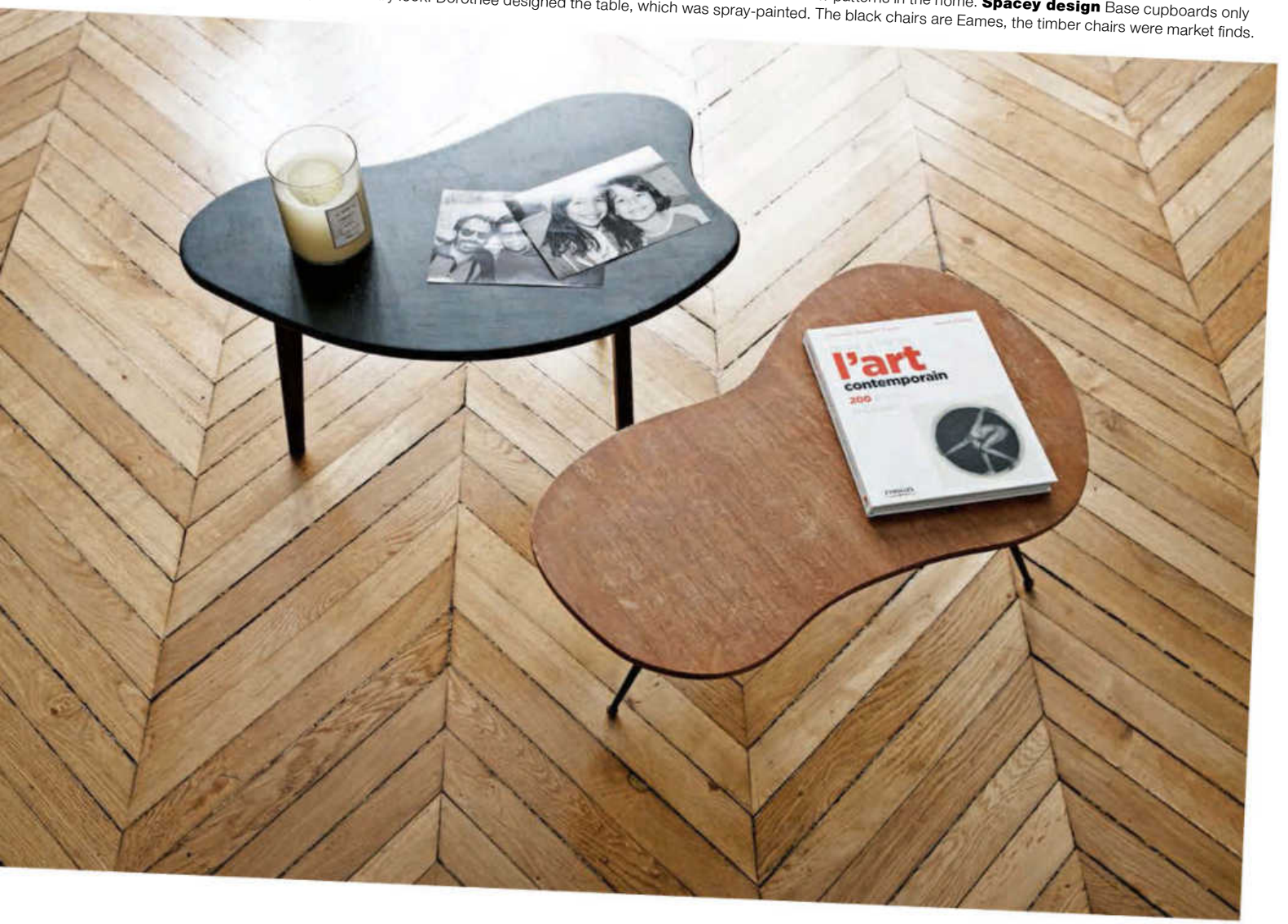
THE NEW NOIR

Renovating experience is applied, and an old apartment is turned into a **striking**, **functional** home



Read a book Homeowner Dorothee Rubinski takes a call by the cupboards in the TV room; they've been covered in "library" wallpaper. **Land of contrasts** A white squishy sofa and Rococo armchairs lift the interior's black features. A glass table appears to float on a Moroccan bridal blanket. →

Curvy lines Small tables, market finds, grace the TV room. The chevron floor is one of the few patterns in the home. **Spacey design** Base cupboards only in the Ikea kitchen give it an airy look. Dorothee designed the table, which was spray-painted. The black chairs are Eames, the timber chairs were market finds.

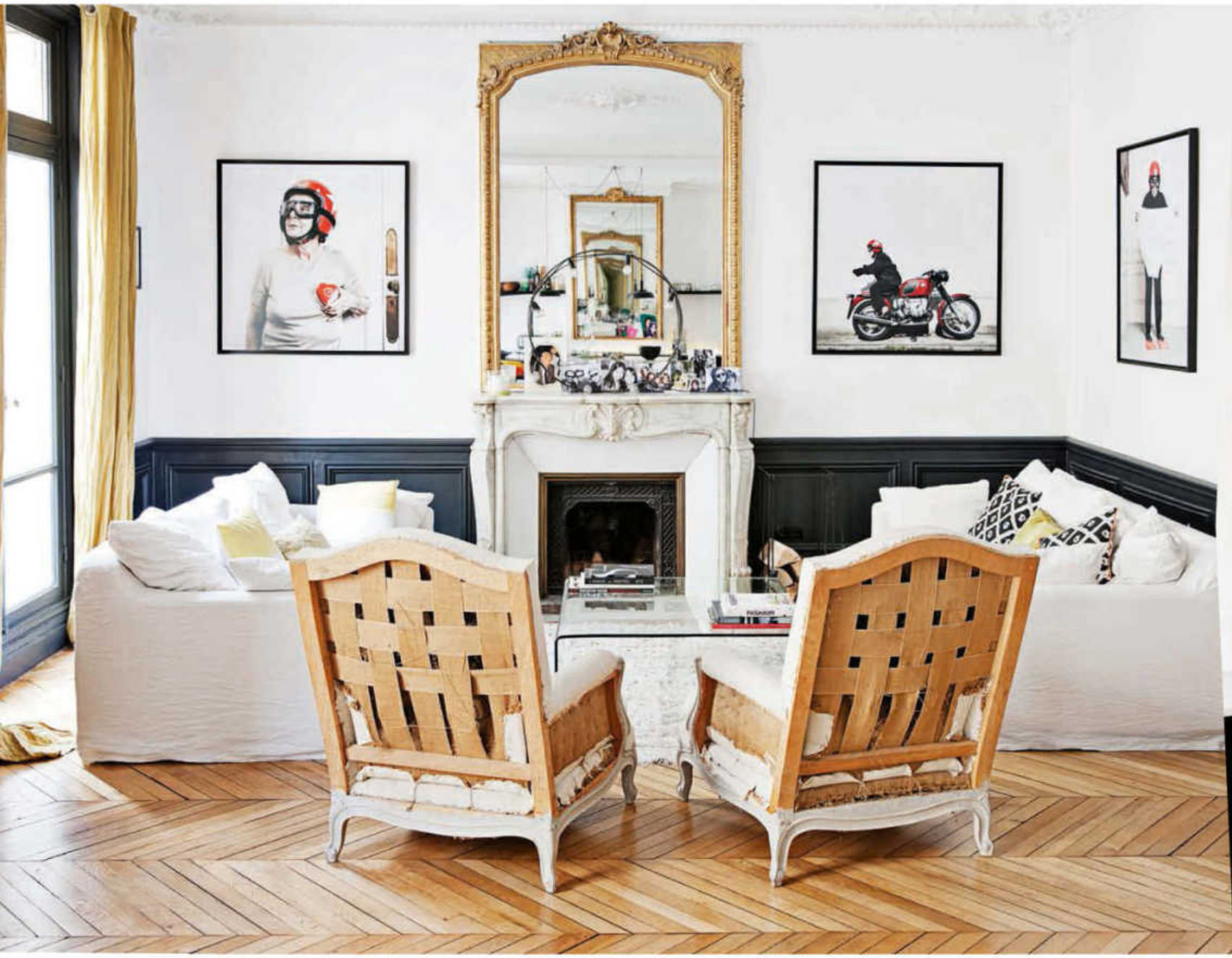


HAVING SUCCESSFULLY FIXED UP her previous home – an industrial-style, open-plan loft – from "top to bottom", Dorothee Rubinski was confident she could be equally successful in her new place, a classic, 192-sq-m city apartment. "When I saw this flat for the first time I had no doubt about its vast potential and how I would take advantage of it," she comments. As Dorothee, her husband Sasha and their three children, Ella, Aaron and Hannah had enjoyed living in pretty much one giant room in their former home, they were keen to copy the design. "That kind of layout worked for us so we chose to apply it here," Dorothee explains.

The early-1900s apartment included three living areas, so Dorothee, the chief designer and decorator, had the walls removed to combine the rooms. The large communal area now contains a new kitchen at one end, table in the centre and living area at the other end. "We have a large family and a lot of friends who often visit for dinner and hang out so the larger living space was a solution that really works for us," she adds. →

text lykke foged & diana prichard | **styling** lykke foged
photography lykke foged & morten holtum/living inside





Undressed elegance The old Rococo armchairs were stripped of their covers and left in their unupholstered state for a raw, edgy effect. Fine-art photographs by Sacha Goldberger dress the walls. **Kitchen rules** The new Ikea kitchen, with a porcelain sink and marble benchtop are juxtaposed with a vintage pendant light for an eclectic look. **Black is back** The colour of the island bench and kitchen cabinetry tie in with home's colour scheme. A bright orange bar stool adds a playful pop to the classic space.

WHO LIVES HERE?

DESIGN CONSULTANT DOROTHEE RUBINKSI, HER HUSBAND SASHA AND THEIR THREE YOUNG CHILDREN, ELLA, 13, AARON, 10, AND HANNAH, 3

Never-ending story Large mirrors placed opposite each other in the open-plan living area offer an interesting sense of infinity to the space.

Instant still life Black doorways elegantly frame the rooms lying beyond.

Successful substitute French glass doors replace windows in the home. →





HEAVY YELLOW VELOUR CURTAINS POOL ON THE GROUND FOR A SENSE OF GENEROUS OPULENCE, AND OFFER ONE OF THE FEW POPS OF SUNSHINEY COLOUR (ALONG WITH THE WARM TIMBER FLOORS) IN THE APARTMENT, BREAKING UP THE MOSTLY BLACK AND WHITE PALETTE

MARBLE COUNTERTOPS
DRESS UP IKEA CABINETS



In the clouds Pooling curtains in the kitchen lend a touch of elegance to the utilitarian space. Black floating shelves offer useful storage and tie in with the cabinetry. **Hide and seek** Dorothee's son Aaron plays in the hallway. Internal windows allow for extra light in various rooms. Doors and door and window frames are all painted black for a unified look. **Hotel heart** Dorothee wanted to create a hotel-feel in her bedroom by employing lots of white. →



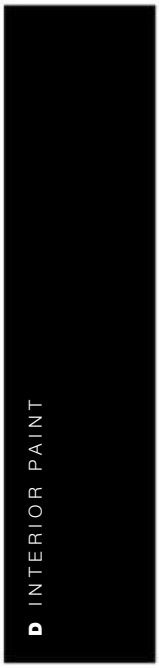


Although the layout of the apartment was changed to suit the family – including turning the old kitchen into three children's bedrooms – Dorothee and Sasha kept original features such as the beautiful chevron floors and lofty plaster ceilings, while still injecting a stylish and contemporary touch through paint. Yes, paint! A black and white palette features throughout the home for a smart and unifying look. Dado rails, skirting boards, doors and door and window frames were painted black, with gloss-black Ikea kitchen cabinetry and shelves fitting in with the scheme. Remaining walls and the ceiling were painted a crisp white to stop the black from making the apartment feel claustrophobic. The timber floor softens the look, adding warmth to the space.

An eclectic mix of furniture gives the home character, and colour pops and decorating surprises, a sense of energy and fun. Storage cupboards are covered in "bookshelf" wallpaper and old armchairs are relieved of their outer coverings for a rugged touch. The family home is as playful as it is functional and grand.









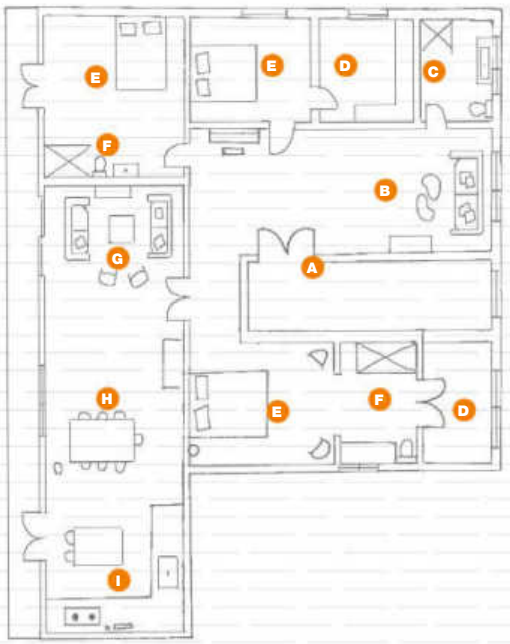


FINISHES

FLOORING Herringbone Block board in **American Oak** (**A**; 888mm x 148mm x 15mm), $110 a sq m (supply only), Royal Oak Floors. **BATHROOM TILES** Polished porcelain in **Best Black** (**B**; 600mm x 600mm), $92.50 a sq m, Beaumont Tiles. **CURTAINS** Linen/cotton window panel in **White** (**C**; 2.13m x 1.22m), $89, West Elm. **INTERIOR PAINT** Murobond Pure in **Chinoiserie** (**D**), $89 for 4L. Sherwin-Williams "Cashmere" in **White** (**E**), $72 for 3.66L, Masters Home Improvement. *For stockists, see page 175.*

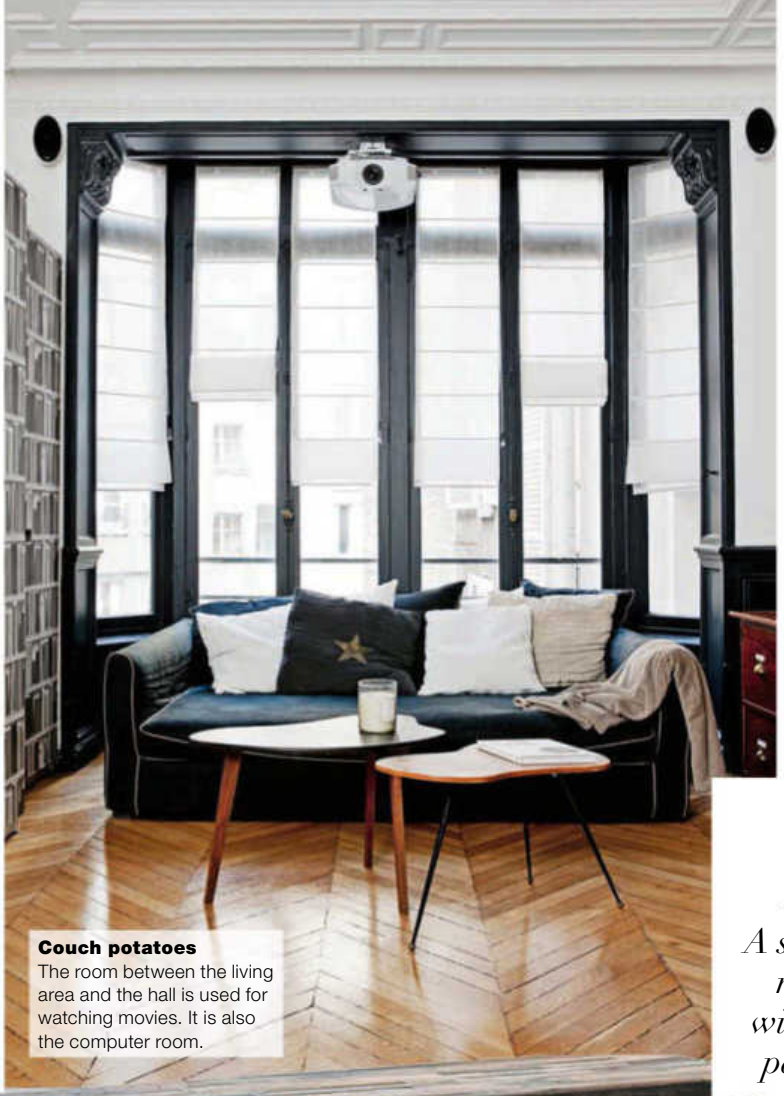


Pure intent
Classic and modern elements combine in the renovated bathroom. The shower is sectioned off behind clear glass.



KEY
A Entrance **B** TV area **C** Bathroom **D** WIR
E Bedroom **F** Ensuite **G** Living area **H** Dining **I** Kitchen

floorplan & still-life styling christina banos
photography lykke foged & morten holtum/living inside (lifestyle shots)



Couch potatoes
The room between the living area and the hall is used for watching movies. It is also the computer room.

Decadant luxe
Boulogne **mirror** in Gold, $1690, Regency Distribution. *1.7m x 90cm.*

Forties vibe
Factory enamel **pendant** in Black, $120, Fat Shack Vintage. *35cm diameter.*



Full of beans
Heinz Beanz framed **poster**, $145, Matt Blatt. *96cm x 66cm.*

Fast & furious
Triumph framed **artwork** by Simon Davidson, $3900, MCM House. *1.24m x 86cm.*



DOROTHEE'S MOODBOARD

A simple mix of old and new pieces combine with a black and white palette for an elegant family home

Added sparkle
Precious Metal **cushion** in Gold, $59.95, Adairs. *45cm.*

Dining storage
Soundslike Home "Locker" **buffet**, $1419, Zanui. *1.2m x 80cm x 40cm.*

Tapestry tales
Iconic **cushion** in Black, $39.95, Rapee. *45cm.*

Linen slipcover
Hampton deep-seated **sofa** in White, $4500, MCM House. *2.36m x 1.18m x 74cm.*

Eco luxe
Latte coffee bean and hazelnut soy **candle**, $34.95, Sister Sands.

Rolled gold
Hammered copper **bowl**, $22.95 for small, Oz Design Furniture. *13cm diameter.*

Around the corner
Catanzaro bent-glass **coffee table**, $590, Nick Scali. *1.38cm x 75cm x 35cm.*

Poplar veneer
Lövbacken **coffee table**, $129, Ikea. *1.06m x 55cm x 42cm.*

stacks of colour

a creative couple experiment with colour and design at home







Top drawer
Homeowner Anja opens the sliding door to the kids' bedroom; the door was made from floorboards from an old gymnasium. A worn brick wall lends an industrial edge.

Gallery wall
Two small rooms and a winding hallway were opened up to create the spacious living room. Much of the art was made by Rasmus. Radiators are painted silver – artists just can't help themselves! The red hall, right, shares its rosy glow. →



Cleaning up
The original cherrywood and faux-marble kitchen didn't appeal to Anja and husband Rasmus, who replaced it with a simple white and black design.



Treasure box
Custom-made boxy shelves fit beautifully under the sloping wall. A colourful, eclectic swag of Ikea cushions brighten up the neutral grey sofa.

text mette kirstine brinch & diana prichard | **photography** tia borgsmidt
styling mette helena rasmussen

ANJA AND RASMUS GOTTLIEBSEN are not afraid to experiment with colour and design – and their fearless decorating has resulted in a fun, whimsical and humour-filled space. "We like to play with colours and materials, so it gives a kind of experience," Anja explains. And the experience is most definitely playful.

In the hallway, walls and ceilings are painted in a high-gloss red, with the glow spreading a feeling of warmth to the rooms beyond. "The red hallway gives a special atmosphere, like stepping into a fairytale," Anja adds. "The urge to go crazy like that comes from wanting to create a 'story'," she says. Throughout the home, radiators are painted silver for a light, shiny effect. Exposed pipes don't escape the silver or red paintbrush either. "It's a *Bob the Builder* apartment, with pipes everywhere," Anja admits. "But we only think that is fun. People normally try to hide all the pipes, but we like to highlight them instead."

The couple's quirky design preferences are brought to the furniture, too. Rasmus made a coffee table to resemble a little fluffy cloud, and a kitchen shelf is attached to the wall with a heap of brackets – giving them the appearance of centipede legs. The apartment has been the perfect playground for the artistic pair. Anja and Rasmus fell in love with the apartment when they first saw it, appreciating the very aspects that put →

Window wall An old factory window was installed as part of the wall in the home to create more light and sense of space. Rasmus made the coffee tables, including the sweet cloud-shaped one.

Got it, flaunt it Instead of hiding a large waste pipe in the kitchen, it was painted a glossy red.
Fun elements Playful details around the flat include a kitchen shelf made with lots of brackets.





WHO LIVES HERE?

JEWELLERY DESIGNERS ANJA AND RASMUS GOTTLIEBSEN, AND THEIR KIDS MY, 6, AND BILLE, 4

Decade of fun The couple have lived in the apartment for 10 years, tweaking their designs when their children came along – such as removing the fake grass floor covering to make way for a more practical painted surface.

Going up Anja and Rasmus love pieces with a history such as their office door, which originally belonged to a lift in a factory. Made from iron, it was a struggle to get it up to the fifth floor of the apartment, but worth the effort.

Stick 'em up
The office wall is used as a moodboard, with sketches stuck to it with tape. An Ikea pendant hangs by a Snoopy table lamp by Achille Castiglioni.



CUSTOM-MADE BENCHES FOR AN EAT-IN KITCHEN

off other buyers. It was situated on the fifth floor of a building by a busy roundabout and had sloping walls, small rooms, a long, narrow hallway and exposed pipes. But it also had beautiful views over rooftops. The couple were sold – they could make it their functional, quirky oasis, putting their signature on the home.

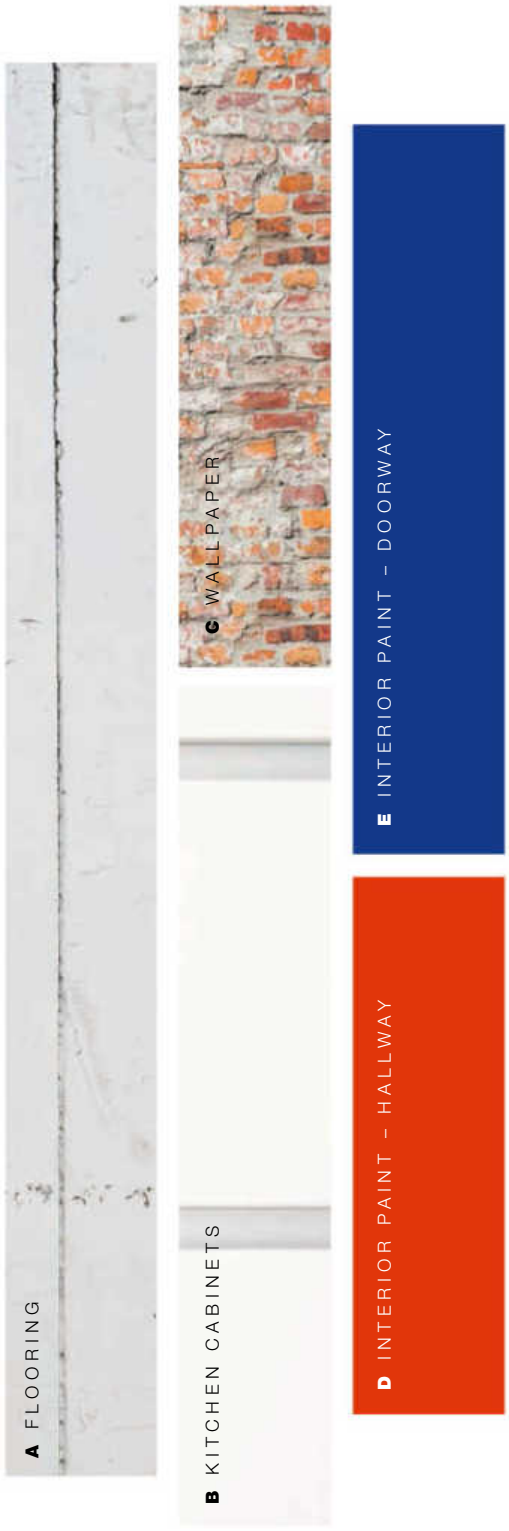
Bookcases were made to nestle into the otherwise wasted space beneath the sloping walls. Small rooms and a hallway were opened up to create a more spacious living area, and a couple of old factory windows were installed as part of internal walls for light flow and a sense of spaciousness. A dated kitchen was replaced with a simple, contemporary design, and standard doors around the home were removed, with a more random, interesting collection taking their place. There's a sliding door to the children's room made from boards from an old gym and a door to the office was once the door of a lift in a factory. It still features traces of its past life, with names etched into the back of it. "The elevator door has probably been our wildest project," Anja comments. While many of the couple's decorating ideas have proven successful, they're happy to discard any ideas that don't work. They had laid fake grass around the apartment like carpet, but when kids came along it was removed. It just wasn't practical. "Although we throw ourselves into some wild decor experiments, things should be able to function in everyday life," Anja says.



Handyman can
The kitchen is eat-in but as it was rather narrow, it was difficult to find a table and chairs to work in the space. So handy Rasmus made the table and benches. →

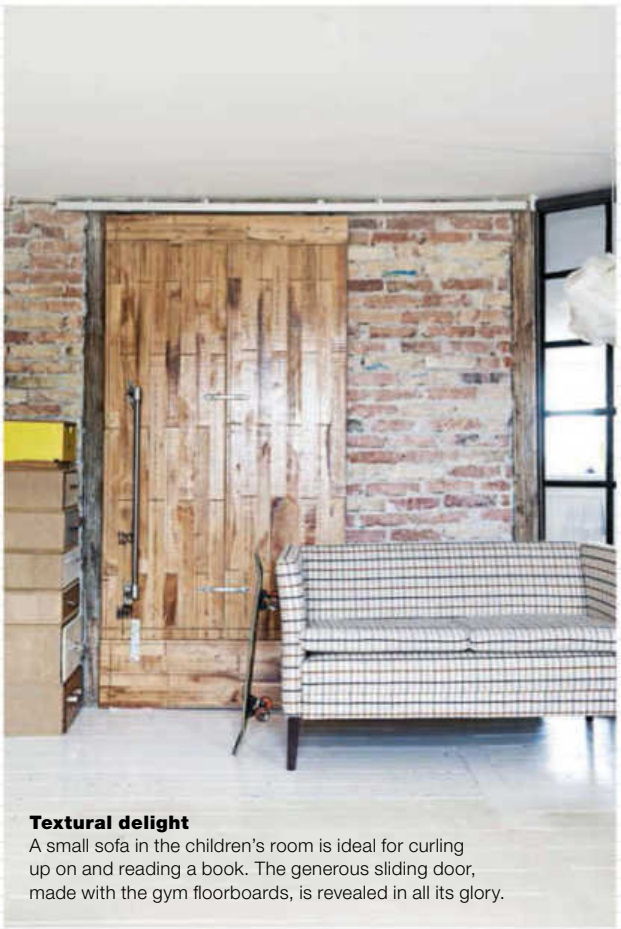


Sleep well
In contrast to the rest of the apartment the bedrooms are relatively colour-free and minimally decorated for a calm, relaxed atmosphere. Crisp white floors reflect the light and up the serenity factor.



FINISHES

FLOORING American Oak boards in **Danish White** (**A**), from $93.50 a sq m, Royal Oak Floors. **KITCHEN CABINETS** Förbättra cover panel in **White** (**B**; 910mm x 2438mm), $120, Ikea. **WALLPAPER** Brick in **Worn Wall** (**C**; 125cm wide), $123.50 a lineal m, Emily Ziz Style Studio. **INTERIOR PAINT** Dulux Wash & Wear in **Cherry Race** (**D**), and **Summer Waters** (**E**), both $85.90 for 4L. Murobond Pure in **Smart White** (**F**), $89 for 4L. *For stockists, see page 175.*



Textural delight
A small sofa in the children's room is ideal for curling up on and reading a book. The generous sliding door, made with the gym floorboards, is revealed in all its glory.



KEY
A Entrance
B Dining
C Kitchen
D Toilet
E Bathroom
F Living room
G Office
H Bedroom
I Kids' bedroom

floorplan & still-life styling christina banos | **photography** tia borgsmidt (lifestyle shots)

Kids sleep here
An old factory window separates the childrens' bedroom from the living room, too. Curtains are rolled down at night to block the light. Bunks are from Ikea. →

Industrial chic
Hektar **pendant light** in Dark Grey, $69, Ikea. *38cm diameter.*

Muted glow
Knappa **pendant light**, $49.99, Ikea. *46cm diameter.*

Classic vessel
Erik Magnussen for Stelton 1L vacuum **jug** in Red, $130, Top3 By Design.

ANJA & RASMUS'S MOODBOARD

Quirky shapes, colourful splashes and oodles of character sum up the look of this fun apartment

Playful practical
Hay "Spine" A4 **notebook**, $70, Cult.

Stretch out
Hilton MK3 2.5-seat modular **sofa** in Esquire Pewter, $1999, Freedom.

Rock solid
MasterChef **mortar & pestle**, $26 for set, Peter's Of Kensington. *13cm diameter (mortar), 17cm long (pestle).*

Monochrome mod
Stockholm **cushion** in Black/White, $29.99, Ikea. *50cm.*

Lick it
Wrong for Hay "Tongue With Feathers" **cushion**, $150, Cult. *50cm.*

Storage solution
Rasmus arranged different boxes on the wall in the kids' room to store their stuff.

Flowers or not
Bloomingville **vase** in Black, $75 for 2, MuBu Home. *10cm and 18cm high.*

Grows up
Stokke "Tripp Trapp" **high chair**, $329, Minimee.

MATERIAL GIRL



AN INTERIOR DESIGNER KNOWS ALL ABOUT BALANCING STYLE AND BUDGET

Luxe look Homeowner and interior designer Jade Nottage is a big fan of marble and uses it a lot in her designs, including her own home. "I like that the coffee table adds a more luxurious element to the space without overwhelming it," she says. The trivet is from Country Road, the small marble bowl is from Marble Basics. A concrete pot from Urban Couture sits on top of a wooden tray from Bed Bath N' Table. →





WHO LIVES HERE?

INTERIOR DESIGNER JADE NOTTAGE WITH HER HUSBAND TRENT CUTLER, A MORTGAGE BROKER AND GYM OWNER, THEIR NEWBORN CHILD, AND TWO DOGS
TOMMARKHENRY.COM; @ TOMMARKHENRY_

Keeping it real "We have many affordable items in our house; I'm not a brand snob at all and feel like whilst you have to pick and choose what you buy in the bigger, more affordable stores, you can find great pieces to sit alongside bespoke, more expensive pieces," Jade says.

Instinctual design "It's definitely more instinctual when designing for your own home than for a client; you know if something feels right. Having said that, at TomMarkHenry we try to understand what our client wants and really try to extract their brief and story so that decision-making can become nearly as instinctual as when designing for our own homes," Jade says.

SYDNEY INTERIOR DESIGNER Jade Nottage of interior architecture firm TomMarkHenry lives and breathes design, but she also knows the reality of balancing a budget and lifestyle. This plays out in her inner-Sydney home where she lives with her husband Trent Cutler, their newborn child, and two Hungarian Vizsla dogs named Willow and Floyd.

Shortly after graduating from the University of NSW with a degree in Interior Architecture in 2010, Jade started renovations on her parents' three-bedroom single-storey Federation home that they were renting out. Two years later, just before launching an interior design practice with friends Cushla McFadden and Chloe Matters, the house underwent another round of renovations that included knocking down the wall between the kitchen and living room, staining the floors, exposing the raw brick, and panelling the hallway.

The first round of work focused on the kitchen, bathroom and opening up the back to the deck. Jade's parents allowed her to work her magic on the proviso that she stick to a strict budget. While it was rented out they didn't want to overcapitalise on the property. But when the time came to move into her own home, Jade could see the potential of the place and came to an agreement with her parents. She and Trent are currently caretakers but the plan is to purchase the house in the not-too-distant future.

Since moving in three years ago, Jade has made some structural changes but also focused on creating a home that the couple can enjoy today before making more changes to the kitchen and bathroom down the track. "The house design has been an evolution," Jade says. "We never had the money to buy everything we loved at once so it's been done bit by bit."

Once she opened up the living area, Jade focused on getting the foundations right – customising a rich stain for the floor and painting throughout. Jade has been careful to combine masculine elements with softer feminine touches to reflect both the personalities of both Trent and herself. She also took cues from the heritage of the house, and its existing features. →

Project hallway Adding wainscoting wall panelling to the hallway was one of the more recent additions to the house. **Tonal beauties** Hungarian Vizslas Willow and Floyd in their favourite place to chill out. The floor lamp is from Freedom. **Warm palette** Australian red cedar timber-veneer cabinets contrast against base cabinets painted in Dulux "Domino" in the kitchen. Art prints from My Sweet Prints. **Designer vibe** Jade sits with one of her dogs, Willow.



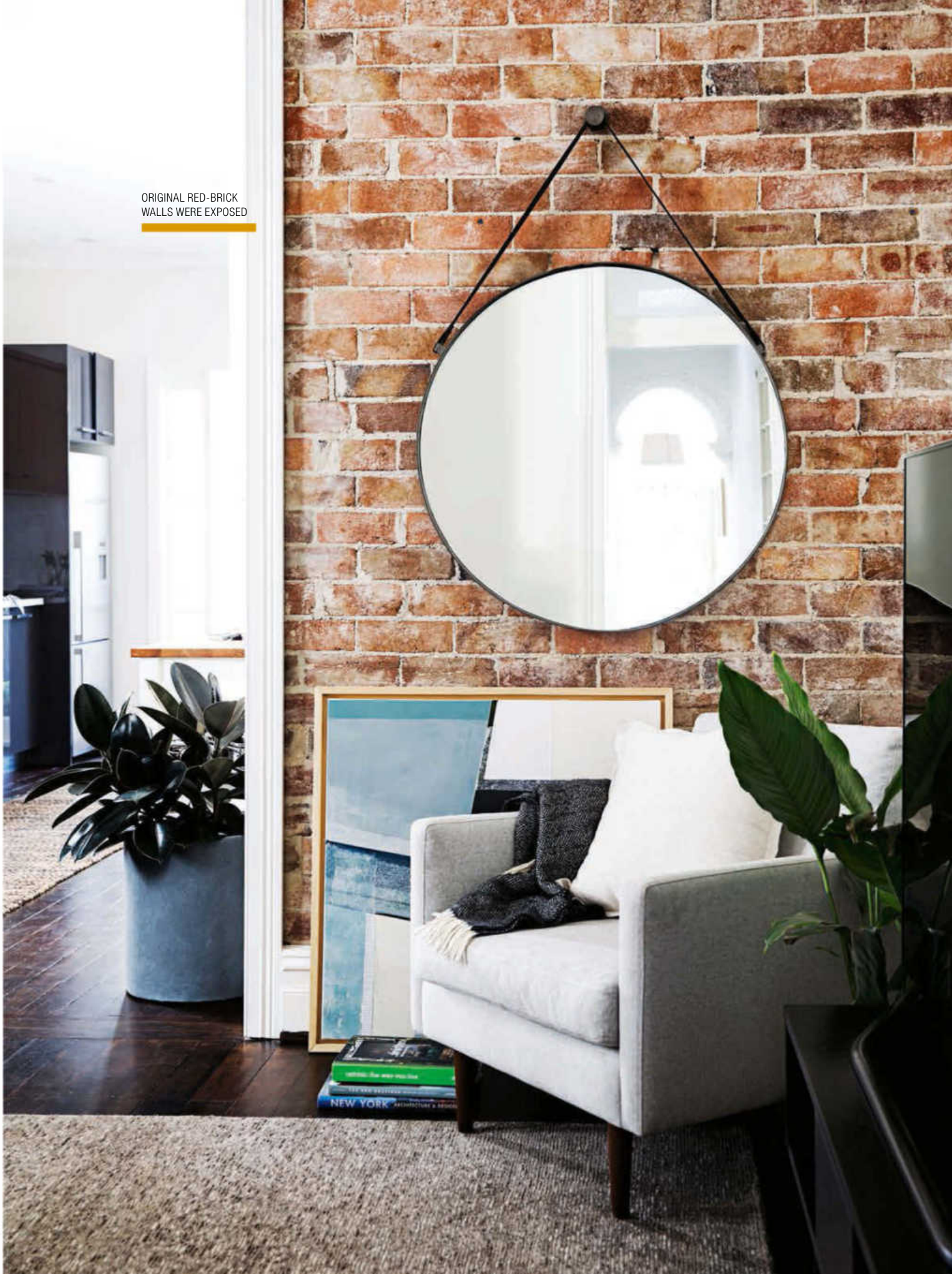
text & styling natalie walton/warnes & walton | **photography** chris warnes/warnes & walton







Home work "Both at work and at home I tend to gravitate towards earthy cool tones of blues and greens along with neutrals," Jade says. **Big change** Jade says the original kitchen – previously an L-shaped design with a small window – felt small and dark. "It's definitely the area of the house that received the biggest facelift," she says. Rug from Armadillo&Co. →



ORIGINAL RED-BRICK WALLS WERE EXPOSED

Jade gravitates towards interiors that have soul and warmth, and plenty of personality. “Lots of natural light, timber, stone and soft tonal explorations are key for me,” she says. “I am surrounded by so much inspiration at work as we are constantly researching and keeping up to date with design around the world so this of course played a part in building the aesthetic, but predominantly I chose design items that I love, regardless of trends and styles.” Nothing too glossy or garish here.

Focusing on how they live in the space has created a warm and welcoming environment rather than a showcase home. “This house is lovely to live in – you can open the back of the house right up and feel the breeze from the water run right through,” Jade says. “There is lots of natural light and a warmth that feels so comfortable and encourages you to linger. I particularly love the lounge room, it’s so comfortable and can be very cosy in winter due to the open fire and warm lighting, but in summer can be a cool, fresh space to spend time because of the open areas around it. I also love the raw brick walls and decorative elements in this space, plus it’s where Trent, the dogs and I spend time together so it feels like the heart of the home.”

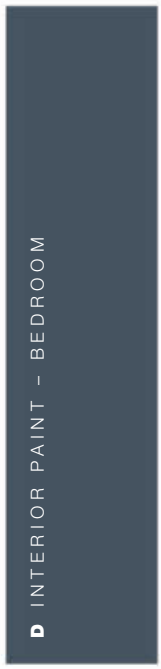




NYC style “We wanted to expose some brick as I love industrial New-York inspired spaces,” Jade says. Chair from Equator Homewares, mirror from La Maison. **Living details** An original fireplace surround is adorned with decorative items such as the hand and black candleholder from Cult. **Minimal monochrome** In the dining area, Jade painted the brick walls white. The stained timber table is from Orson & Blake, chairs from Ikea, and Nicky Leary print from MCM House. →









E INTERIOR PAINT

FINISHES

FLOORING Architect Collection in **Brown Black** (**A**; 158mm x 10mm x 1830mm), $93.50 a sq m, Royal Oak Floors. **SPLASHBACK** Metro Bevel tiles in **White** (**B**), from $35 a sq m, Kalafrana Ceramics. **KITCHEN CABINETS** Timber-veneer in **Australian Red Cedar** (**C**), from $65 a sq m, Yates Wood Products. **INTERIOR PAINT** Dulux Wash & Wear in **Walter** (**D**), $85.90 for 4L, and **Antique White USA** (**E**), $71.90 for 4L. *For stockists, see page 175.*



Confident colour
After using Dulux "Walter" paint on a work project, Jade decided to add it to her master bedroom. The bedhead is from La Maison, the lamp is from Freedom.

KEY
A Entrance
B Bedroom
C Living area
D Bathroom
E Kitchen
F Dining
G Deck



floorplan & still-life styling christina banos | **photography** chris warnes/warnes & walton (lifestyle shots)



Beautiful blend
The living area boasts a mix of traditional and contemporary designs.

Beaut bulb
Gaspar **pendant light**, $199, Freedom. *30cm bulb.*

Strapping piece
Round **mirror**, $19, Kmart. *55cm diameter.*



Let's escape...
Escape **print**, from $119.95 unframed, Blacklist. *45cm x 64cm.*

JADE'S MOODBOARD

Natural timber, neutral tones and a hint of marble and metallic for a classic home with a contemporary edge

Neutral tone
Studio **armchair** in Arena Cement, $699, Freedom.

Love brass
Ferm Living "Hexagon" **vase** in Brass, $69, Norsu Interiors.

Felt good
Felty **cushion**, $63, BoConcept. *40cm.*

Twisted design
Hay "Lup" **candleholder** in Black, $56, Designstuff.

Leather wrap
Scanda marble & leather **vase** in Black, $95, Curious Grace. *Flowers not included.*

Warm glow
Hinged **table lamp** in Copper, $99, Freedom.

Stitch deatil
Moroccan leather **pouffe** in Vintage Tan, $195, Zohi Interiors.

Solid & striking
Como **coffee table** in Marble/Black, $1515, Globe West. *1m diameter.*


SCANDI
LOCAL

THE USE OF LIGHT IN SCANDINAVIAN INTERIORS INSPIRES A SYDNEY DESIGNER



Cloud nine
Since establishing his design studio about a year ago, homeowner and product designer Fräg Woodall has focused on creating a boutique range of interior products, including these marble and oak Cloud tables.

Bright light
Fräg used the original kitchen cupboard framework to create a new design. The timber beams are purely aesthetic, adding warmth to the white space. The floors are painted in Berger "Jet Dry" paving paint. →

FURNITURE/PRODUCT DESIGNER FRÄG WOODALL AND HIS WIFE NAOMI, A HISTORY TEACHER. MRFRAG.COM

Way of being "The Scandi aesthetic is our modus operandi – it's our aesthetic," Fräg says. "And the furniture and lifestyle we are comfortable with; simple and pared-back pieces that have a clear voice. We don't need lots of things. The things we do have are of a high value and serve their purpose well."

Constant query Fräg is often asked about the black bathroom tapware. As he couldn't find classic-influenced pieces in a black finish he customised his own, stripping parts and rebuilding them before having them powdercoated.

Yellow mellow "It was really important to have a light, flexible and airy space," Fräg says of the kitchen. The cabinetry here was kept low key, with a pine cupboard and shelving suspended from yellow nylon rope.
Reinvented room Fräg utilised his craft skills to add architraves and windowsills to the sunroom, used as a dining space. He also made the dining table for the room. The chairs are Borg Mogensen "J39" dining chairs.



text natalie walton | **photography** maree homer | **styling** kerrie-ann jones

SYDNEYSIDERS FRÄG AND NAOMI Woodall have visited Scandinavia several times, and have been drawn to the way the region captures light in interiors. When they bought their two-bedroom apartment in Sydney's Kensington, Fräg wanted to use light as a design tool. As a product designer, he's a visual bowerbird, which has translated into the home. "You are forever plucking out and picking up little observations around you," he explains. The apartment has a Swedish summer house feel, with traditional design elements inspiring the couple. "It almost merges and marries mid-century Scandi with a beachside Australian feel," Fräg comments.

The couple bought the unit in December 2011, after only a few months of house hunting. When they came upon it – a long-term, run-down rental – they saw its potential. It was in a 1930s block of nine and boasted high ceilings, generous-sized rooms and a northerly aspect. One of its greatest features was its circular layout. "There is no dead space – you don't ever feel that you're going into a dead end," Fräg says.

While Fräg had worked in furniture restoration and design for many years, this was his first go at renovating. What he might have lacked in experience, he more than made up for with enthusiasm and skill. Before the settlement was even finalised, he visited the apartment to measure up, then began work making →



Stylish set A photographic artwork by Sophia Szilagyi, from Otomys, sits above a credenza that was one of Fräg's designs for Woodmark Australia. **Kitchen overhaul** Fräg added new knobs to reworked kitchen cabinetry, which he painted in Porter's Paints "White". "I made them into that simple Shaker style," he says. Benchtops are oak, the sink was found on eBay.


NORDIC



Calm and collected
A key living room feature is the pine wall, laid horizontally. “A horizontal line is more calming and peaceful whereas a vertical application creates height and more drama,” says Fräg, pictured with his wife Naomi on a sofa he designed. He chose untreated pine because it’s “light, blonde, utilitarian, humble”. Rug from Great Dane Furniture. →

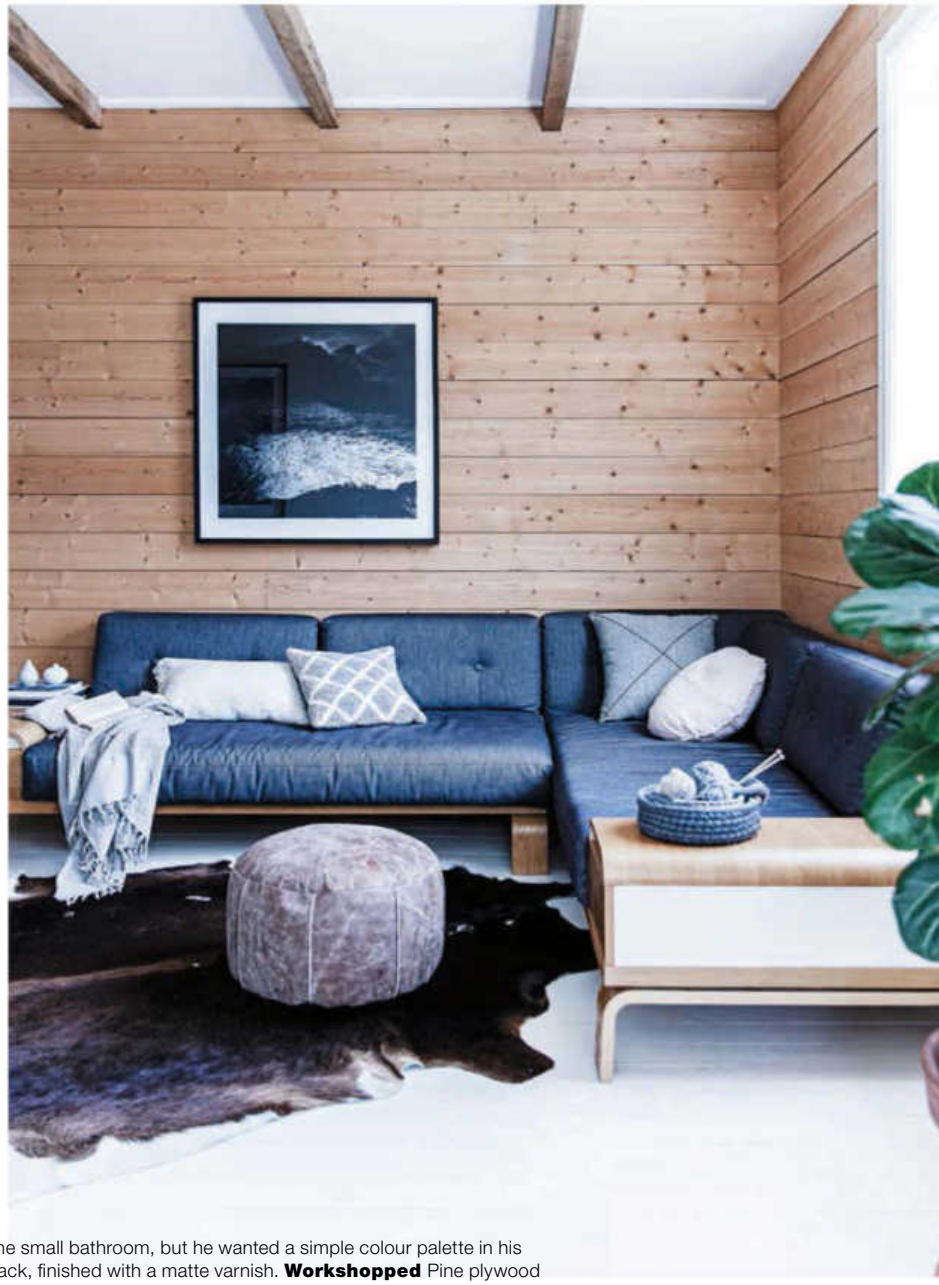


French connection
A French door, from a lavender farm, made its way to the couple's home via the Heritage Building Centre in Rockdale. The standout feature is hung with materials from a US store, Barndoor Hardware.

arched architraves for the windows in the sunroom. Soon the couple moved in, and lived in the apartment while Fräg continued with the renovation, doing all of the work himself. It was a “casual renovation”, he says, with work taking place two to three days a week over a nine-month period. Because he was happy with the apartment’s layout and how much natural light it received, there weren’t many structural changes required. Most of the work involved opening up the doorways by removing brickwork to the ceiling to give a greater sense of connection between each space. Walls were warmed up with timber panelling, laid horizontally through the home to give a warm and cosy effect. “I didn’t need to emphasise the height of the rooms,” Fräg says of the horizontal arrangement. About four years ago, the floors in the home were painted in Berger “Jet Dry” oil-based paving paint in White. Floors had been a poor grade of timber – they were designed to be used underneath carpet and were full of knots and defects. “However, when you paint them, all of those defects come ‘alive’,” Fräg comments. “I absolutely loved the process,” he says of renovating his home. “I was almost sad when it was finished.” But not sad to bring a little bit of Scandinavia home. Skål.







Rule breaker Fräg was advised not to use the colour black in the small bathroom, but he wanted a simple colour palette in his home. The timber wall is painted in Feast Watson “Prooftint” in Black, finished with a matte varnish. **Workshopped** Pine plywood sheets feature in the studio/workshop downstairs. “It’s a very small space – it has to be efficient and works well,” Fräg says. **Cosy corner** The tallowwood beams, salvaged from an old bridge near Tamworth, add warmth, character and continuity to the home. →













FINISHES

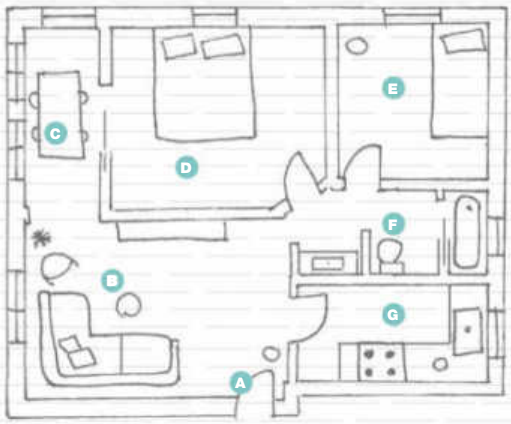
WALL CLADDING V-Joint lining boards in **Tasmanian Oak** (A; 137mm x 1000mm), $10.66 a lineal m, Bunnings. **FLOOR PAINT** Berger "Jet Dry" paving in **Satin White** (B), $76.85 for 4L, Bunnings. **PLYWOOD WALL** Structural CD panel in **Plywood** (C; 2400mm x 1200mm x 7mm), $31, Bunnings. **BATHROOM TILES** Agrestic in **White Gloss** (D; 150mm x 75mm), $58.99 a sq m, Beaumont Tiles. **INTERIOR PAINT** Porter's Paints low-sheen acrylic in **White** (E), $102.90 for 4L. Feast Watson "Prooftint" in **Black** (F), $54.75 for 1L, Bunnings. *For stockists, see page 175.*

Moody enigmatic
A striking photographic artwork by Krisjan Rossouw, from Otomys gallery, sits above a sideboard in the bedroom.



KEY
A Entrance
B Living room
C Dining/Sunroom
D Master bedroom
E Bedroom
F Bathroom
G Kitchen
H Garage





floorplan & still-life styling christina banos | **photography** maree homer (lifestyle shots)



Chill-out zone
A Gina Martynova artwork hangs above a Fräg's design, the Ilium chair. Horizontal timber on the walls and beams are repeated in this room.

Lights on
NUD "Classic" **cord & socket**, $61 (not including lightbulb), Surrounding.

Fashion floral
Batik Beauty limited-edition unframed **artwork** by Gina Martynova, $550, Otomys. *80cm x 60cm.*



Urban industrial
Ando 1 Light **pendant** in Cork/Glass, $169, Beacon Lighting.

Happy hooks
Muuto "The Dots" **coat hooks**, $199 for set of 5, Top3 By Design. *From 9cm diameter.*

FRÄG & NAOMI'S MOODBOARD

A little bit of Scandinavia in Kensington, with white, wood and black accents for an airy, cosy home

Reclaimed yarn
Quilted **cushion** in Grey Marle/White, $159, One Another. *45cm.*

Changing faces
Vedel "Chubby Bird" timber **ornament**, $99, Great Dane Furniture. *10.5cm high.*

Sculptural shape
Fleur "Rose" glass **bowl**, $29.95 (without greenery), Freedom. *24cm diameter.*

Understated luxe
Cloud service **table**, $1490, Mr Fräg. *Made from Carrara marble and timber; 51cm high.*

Scandi cool
Marimekko "Siirtolapuutarha" 700ml **teapot**, $129, Funkis.

Multi-colour veneer
Odin **sideboard**, $2199, Life Interiors. *2.055m x 75.5cm x 48cm.*

Feet up
HK Living "Rustic" leather **pouf**, $385, Luumo. *50cm diameter.*

Rustic chic
Pampa "Monte #57" handwoven **rug**, $1350, The Design Hunter. *2.1m x 1.75m.*



Wireless Audio 360 Speakers radiate sound evenly in all directions, allowing you to hear immersive sound from just about anywhere in your room. Enjoy great music from one speaker, or create a **Samsung Multiroom System** from multiple compatible speakers and spread the 360 sound experience throughout your home.*

SAMSUNG
WIRELESS AUDIO 360

*Mains power required

ROOMS

116 PRETTY PLACES TO LAY YOUR HEAD BEAUTIFUL NEW BEDROOM STYLES THAT LOOK TOTALLY DREAMY **122 TV: DISPLAY OR HIDE?** HOW TO MAKE YOUR TV LOOK GOOD IN YOUR INTERIOR – REALLY! **128 TRUE CONFESSIONS OF A RENOVATION** THE REAL STORY BEHIND THE TRANSFORMATION OF A CHARMING BEACH COTTAGE

Sleeping beauties Give your bedroom a makeover with our cool new colour palettes, clever decorating tricks and the most sumptuous bedlinen. *Flip the page for everything you need to create your dream bedroom.* →

PRETTY PLACES TO LAY YOUR HEAD

BEAUTIFUL NEW BEDROOM STYLES THAT LOOK TOTALLY DREAMY



STYLE STEAL

FILL THE BASE OF YOUR POTTED CACTUS WITH ASSORTED SMALL SUCCULENT FOR TEXTURE AND COLOUR – AND TO COVER THE DIRT!



STYLE STEAL
RETHINK THE BEDSIDE TABLE AND USE A VERSATILE SCULPTURAL PIECE LIKE THIS LITTLE COPPER NUMBER – IT'D LOOK GREAT IN ANY ROOM

Raw dreaming
Temple 4-poster **bed** in White, $1099 for queen, and **real living** for Freedom "Armless" **chair** in Mustard, $599, Freedom. Sealy "Aquila" Firm spring **mattress**, $799 for queen, Forty Winks. Swole **side table** in Copper, $699, Blu Dot. Round utility **floor cushion**, $185, MJG by Mr Jason Grant. Potted **cactus** from Saint Cloche. **ON BED real living** for Freedom "Rites Of Spring" **quilt cover set** in Blush, $169 for queen, Freedom.* Large **pillowcase** in Blush Pink, $150, The Society Inc. Punto **blanket** in Grey, $329, Jardan. Raika 1 Light **pendant light** in Cork/Amber Glass, $299, Beacon Lighting. **ON SIDE TABLE** Studio Twocan large **pot**, $85, Jardan. Copper **bowl**, $78, Beans + Jazz. SOH "Collins St" **candle**, $49, The Vignette Room. **ON WALL** Jetty-crete **wallpaper**, $110.50 a lineal m (125cm wide), Emily Ziz Style Studio. *Architecture* framed **artwork** in Pink by Middle Of Nowhere, $345, Life Interiors. **ON FLOOR** Livyn Essential vinyl **flooring** in Patina Oak Light White, $34 a sq m, Quick-Step. **IZI WEARS** Knit tank **dress**, $139, Interval. 2750 Cotu Lamew **sneakers** in Gold New, $99.95, Superga.
The new pieces in the **real living for Freedom range are in store from March.* →

HERE, PRETTY MEETS GRITTY WITH PASTEL PINK, MUSTARD AND RAW GREY

WITH A BREEZY HANGING CHAIR AND A TEXTURAL "NAUTICOOL" VIBE, THIS BEDROOM WILL TAKE YOU ON A DREAMY ESCAPE



Holiday vibes

Ashton limited-edition **bed** in Navy, $799 for queen, Freedom. King Koil "Chiro Flex 3" Firm MK3 **mattress**, $1699 for queen, Forty Winks. Retro mesh **side table**, $129, MJG by Mr Jason Grant. Macrame **hammock chair**, $180, Nusa Indah. Anchor Ceramics "Earth" **pendant light**, $539, Cafe Culture + Insitu. Ombre sheer **curtain**, $116 a lineal m (147cm wide), Emily Ziz Style Studio. **ON BED real living** for Freedom "Sketches" **quilt cover set** in Blue, $169 for queen, Freedom.* Easy leather **cushion**, $119, MJG by Mr Jason Grant. Pala Kilim 1 **cushion**, $99, The Vignette Room. **ON SIDE TABLE** Fete large-neck **bottle**, $145, Jardan. For similar bottle, try Mid-century tall glass **bottle** in Blue, $59, West Elm. Round **tin** in Brass, $57, Lightly. **ON WALL** Boat **mirror**, $185, The Society Inc. Wall painted in Murobond Pure Wall Flat in **Smart White**, $89 for 4L. **IZI WEARS** Brixton Fiddler **hat**, $59.95, Glue Store. Astral Dancer **top**, $140, and **skirt**, $190, Bec & Bridge. Mario **heels**, $189.98, Sol Sana.

The new pieces in the **real living for Freedom range are in store from March.* →

BEHIND THE SCENES

Head to our Facebook page at Facebook.com/reallivingmagazine to see a fun video of how stylist Sarah put together this shoot. Plus, she explains the looks.



STYLE STEAL
TIGHT SPACE? GO FOR A PENDANT LIGHT INSTEAD OF A TABLE LAMP. IT'S A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO ADD SHAPE AND COLOUR TO YOUR SCHEME, TOO

USE A FEATURE ARTWORK IN THE BEDROOM. BETTER YET, MAKE IT THE BEDHEAD



STYLE STEAL
BRING DECORATIVE GLASSWARE INTO THE BEDROOM FOR FORM AND FUNCTION. A CARAFE AND TUMBLER SET IS PERFECT FOR MIDNIGHT SIPS

Dreamy luxe
Statement "Infinte Daydream" **bedhead**, $1679 for queen, Mexsii. Mr Frag "Cloud" **side table**, $1925.70, Cult. **ON BED** Linen **duvet cover**, $275 for queen, and **pillowcases** in Grey/White stripe, $75 for pair, In Bed. Linen **flat sheet** in Indigo, $175 for queen, Cultiver. Indigo 4 **textile offcut**, $190 for 1m x 1.9m, The Society Inc. Hub timber **tray**, $89 for set of 3 (only 1 shown), MJG by Mr Jason Grant. Wrong for Hay "Tela" **carafe**, $109, and **glass** in Pink, $30, Cult. Lack Of Color short-brim **hat**, $55, Glue Store. **ON SIDE TABLE** SOH "Fig" brass vessel **candle**, $70, The Vignette Room. Jansen + Co tall **candlestick** in Grey, $59.95, Design Twins. Agraffé **table lamp** in White, $189, Beans + Jazz. **ON WALL** Inspirational **picture** from magazine. Wall painted in Porter's Paints Eggshell acrylic in **Blush**, $97 for 4L. **ON FLOOR** The Magazine Keeper **magazine rack** in White (marble top not shown), $699, Beans + Jazz; holding **magazines** from supermarket. Marla wedge **sandals**, $209.95, Sol Sana. Livyn Essential vinyl **flooring** in Patina Oak Light White, $34 a sq m (supply only), Quick-Step. *For stockists, see page 175.*



STYLE STEAL
SWITCH OUT YOUR WHITE SHEETS FOR INKY NAVY BLUE. IT'S JUST AS VERSATILE AND ADDS DEPTH TO LIGHTER-COLOURED QUILT COVERS

photography maree homer | **styling** sarah ellison | **styling assistants** carolyn anderson

TV DISPLAY OR HIDE?

THE TRUTH IS most of us love watching TV (even if we don't admit it). But, realistically, as sleek and slimline as they are, televisions aren't that attractive. They muck up interior schemes and though bigger is better for viewing, invisible is preferred for aesthetics. Well, the decorative agony is over. Here are three ways you can make your TV disappear – or at least recede into your styled interior.



IN DISGUISE / MIRROR OR TV?
DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN GET SPECIAL MIRRORS MADE TO HANG OVER YOUR FLATSCREEN TV – ONES THAT YOU CAN WATCH TV THROUGH? AMAZING! YOU CAN GET TV MIRRORS FROM PROFESSIONAL PICTURE FRAMERS, OR CHECK OUT TV-MIRROR.COM.AU AND TVFRAMES.COM.AU



TV TREATMENT TV hiding behind framed **TV mirror**, from $1200, Tvframes.com.au. **IN THE SCENE** The Danielle 2-seat **sofa** in Grey, $2895, Urban Couture. Wendelbo "Chill" low-back **lounge chairs** in Black, $1355 each, Universo Positivo "Moon" **coffee table** in White, $1150, Dublin **console** in Matt Black, $740, and Tube **floor lamp**, $470, Clickon Furniture. Birmingham arched cast-iron **fireplace insert**, $599, Early Settler Recollections. For similar **mantel**, try Heritage Building Centre. **ON SOFA** Hamada lumbar **cushion**, $62, Citta Design. Icelandic **sheepskin** in Black, $289, Urban Couture. **ON CHAIRS** Leather **cushions** in Bronze, $259 each, BoConcept. **ON COFFEE TABLE** AYTM "Tota" **bowl**, $199, Urban Couture. **ON CONSOLE** FROM LEFT AYTM "Global" round glass **vase**, $129, Urban Couture. Brass and Marble **dish**, $89, and Warhol **table lamp**, $79, Life Interiors. *Ceremony* unframed **print** from Penney + Bennett, $115, Urban Couture. Small leaping bone spiral **sculpture**, $470, Penny Farthing Design House. Maysa marble **vase** in Black, $119, Soundslike Home. **ON WALL** *Nature Colliding* framed **print**, $795, Penny Farthing Design House. Walls painted in Murobond Murowash in **Smart White**, $93 for 4L. **ON FLOOR** Matte Terra Fumo Chevron **tiles**, $160 a sq m, Di Lorenzo. →



ARTY SOLUTION / SALON STYLE
TRICK THE EYE AND WALL-MOUNT THE TELLY IN A SALON-STYLE ART HANG WITH A BUNCH OF ARTWORKS. BONUS POINTS IF YOU PAINT THE WALL A DARK COLOUR SO THE TV RECEDES EVEN MORE.

TV TREATMENT Series 8 55-inch JS8000 4K SUHD **TV**, $3799, Samsung. ARTWORKS Clockwise from bottom left: *Inkah Blush Moon Square* framed **print** by Jacqui Mac, $473 with Oak frame, Clickon Furniture. Belinda Marshall framed **prints**, $109 for A4, $159 for A3, Life Interiors. *Birds* glass framed **artwork**, $539, BoConcept. Prudence Caroline "Untitled" framed **artwork**, $499, Clickon Furniture. Kortkartellet "Ö" unframed **print** in Black, $62, Havn H; inside Mossebo **frame**, $14.99, Ikea. Wall painted in Porter's Paints low-sheen acrylic in **Affogato**, $102.90 for 4L.

IN THE SCENE Otto 3-seat **sofa** in Light Grey, $2850, and Wendelbo "Hug" **lounge chairs** in Sky Blue, $1450 each, Clickon Furniture. The Bondi round **coffee table**, $1295, Urban Couture. Curio "Jacob" **sideboard**, $2495, Clickon Furniture. **ON SOFA** Dolce **cushion covers** in Rust, $59.90 each, Citta Design. Bay scatter **cushion** in Bell Blue, $50, Clickon Furniture. **ON COFFEE TABLE** Concrete **bowl**, $229, BoConcept. **ON SIDEBOARD** Milk & Sugar "Fredrik" **pot** in Grey (holding **plant**), $69, and Ingrid **vases** in White and Blush, $34 for small, $44 for medium, Life Interiors. Sned **table lamp**, $699, BoConcept. **ON RIGHT WALL** *New Possibility 1* (right) and *New Possibility 2* framed **artworks**, $669 each, BoConcept. Wall paint, as before. **ON FLOOR** Armadillo&Co "Sierra" weave **rug** in Charcoal, $1080, Life Interiors. Livyn Essential vinyl **flooring** in Patina Oak Light White, $34 a sq m, Quick-Step. →



text elle lovelock | **photography** brett stevens | **styling** jackie brown
styling assistants violet younan, danielle el helou, henriette gabreal, lisa burden & marianne snoodijk



TV TREATMENT KDL50W800C **TV**, $1599, Sony. Custom-made sliding **barn doors** from The Merry Barn. **IN THE SCENE** The Mila **sofa** in Charcoal, $2495, Urban Couture. Parker timber **lounge chairs** in Charcoal and Light Grey, $749 each, Life Interiors. AK Atelier 6-drawer **sideboard**, $2299, and Pure magazine **coffee table**, $849, Soundslike Home. Universo Positivo "Monolit" **side table**, $395, Clickon Furniture. **ON SOFA** Dolce **cushion cover** in Light Cocoa, $59.90, Citta Design. Bloomingville "Quilted" wool **cushion**, $149, Clickon Furniture. **ON ARMCHAIRS** Bay scatter **cushions** in Ink and Crue, $50 each, Clickon Furniture. **ON SIDEBOARD** Harrison **table lamp**, $129, Life Interiors. Bloomingville "Fluted" **vases**, $70 for set of 2 on left, Clickon Furniture. Didde **vase**, $99, BoConcept. *Escarpment* framed **print** by Kristen Lethem, $895, Penny Farthing Design House. **IN SIDEBOARD** Play:5 wireless **speaker**, $749, Sonos. Bloomingville "Fluted" **vase**, $68, Clickon Furniture. Rough **vase**, $89, BoConcept. **ON COFFEE TABLES** Muuto "Balance" **3-vase set tray**, $238, Top3 By Design. Soft Line **bowl**, $115, BoConcept. **ON WALL** *H.C Andersen I* (right) and *H.C Andersen II* framed **artworks**, $419 each, BoConcept. Walls painted in Murobond Pure low-sheen in **Just White**, $89 for 4L. **ON FLOOR** Livyn Essential vinyl **flooring** in Patina Oak Light White, $34 a sq m, Quick-Step. Bayliss "Soul" **rug** in Silk Worm (2m x 3m), $1415, Clickon Furniture. *For stockists, see page 175.*

BEHIND THE SCENES
Head to our Facebook page at Facebook.com/reallivingmagazine to see a video of stylist Jackie's tips for displaying/hiding your TV.

SLIDING PANELS = TV-HIDING GENIUS



CONCEAL & REVEAL / DECORATIVE DOORS

SLIDING DOORS IN COOL MATERIALS, OR DECORATIVE PANELS FEATURING A MURAL OR WALLPAPER, ARE THE IDEAL SPACE-SAVING SOLUTIONS FOR COVERING UP YOUR TV. THEY CAN BE EASILY MOUNTED ON THE WALL FOR A DISPLAY OR HIDE-AWAY APPROACH.

True confessions of a renovation

RENOVATING WILL DAUNT EVEN THE BRAVEST OF HEARTS AND PRODUCE MORE ANXIETY THAN RIDING A WILD HORSE. DEB BIBBY, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF REAL LIVING, REVEALS ALL (INCLUDING HER HEART ON HER SLEEVE)





The scene I've lived in this little beach cottage overlooking Pittwater in Sydney for 18 years – long enough to "get a feel for the place" before renovating, that's for sure! **Resolved scheme** The kitchen design, concept and palette was by architect Noek Witzand – he specified American oak for the benchtops and shelving. The formply cabinets have satin brass handles from Pearl Lighting And Brassware while the Colmar limestone tiles are from Eco Outdoor. →

photography sharyn cairns (boats); maree homer (deb)



New & improved The kitchen was kept in the same spot as the original one, but now opens up to the garden. The appliances are pretty clever – I've got Fisher & Paykel "Izona" cool drawers from Harvey Norman and a Smeg integrated dishwasher all tucked under the bench. The pendants are from Vintage LED. **Take it outside** The big sliding door that leads to the deck is from Trend Windows And Doors.

photography | maree homer



KITCHEN TIPS

DRAWERS
My friend gave me this handy tip before the kitchen construction began: make sure drawers aren't too wide as it prevents a few of you working at the same bench at the same time.

BENCHTOPS
Natural benchtops made of timber and marble will stain – let them. In Europe they let it get a beautiful worked patina, a history of living.

BENCH HEIGHTS
You don't have to have standard bench heights in the kitchen. You can adjust bench heights to suit.

BLUM
Can't go past Blum for internals. Actually I'd say essential. I did a kitchen test drive at the Lincoln Sentry showroom before configuring my kitchen drawers – best thing you could do. You send them your kitchen design and they set up your entire kitchen with makeshift cupboards and you get a real sense of how your kitchen will work.

UP AND DOWN
Everything below the bench is best as a drawer, everything above is best as a cupboard or shelf.

WINE FRIDGE
Separate the wine drinkers from the action. I placed my drinks fridge away from the workstations.

UTILITIES PLACEMENT
Keep the fridge, sink and stove close together if possible. Forget cabinets near the cooktop – you need the benchspace for hot pots and pans.

BIN
Place your bin drawer directly under your prep area. That way then you can scrape straight from chopping board into bin – voilà!

TASK LIGHTING
You need task lighting in the kitchen. LED strips are great and very effective. Mine are warm-toned and placed behind the lowest shelf to light up the bench perfectly.

BOTTOM DRAWERS
Make all your bottom drawers kick-activated (I forgot)! →

My new veranda The old chair used to be the dog's bed. It's now a favourite curl-up spot and the only place my mobile works perfectly. I loaned these Mark Tuckey stools for the shoot and don't they look great? Just beyond my budget right now.
Cookin' with gas The Smeg "Victoria" oven and cooktop in Panna enamelled metal is the hero of this corner of the kitchen.



RENOVATION IS SUCH A JOURNEY, an adventure, and can be life changing in so many ways. Your home is your place to lay your head to foster love and relationships – how it nurtures is vital. Our new home has changed the way we live and how we feel. It's our refuge and happy shelter. Here's my reno story without the whitewash. I have to admit it was challenging and overwhelming but some beautiful heroes emerged! I hope all the tips, tricks and the odd missteps help you make some golden decisions and avoid costly mistakes in your own projects. All materials, sources and costs are revealed (but let's keep that between us, sshhh).

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS The concrete on the footpath leading to our modest beach cottage has the words "fish shack" scrawled into it. And that's exactly what it is – a beautiful little shack – but it was falling apart at the seams. The deck was in such a state of disrepair that one day my son's foot went straight through the timber. He got his entire leg stuck up to the top of his thigh and couldn't manoeuvre himself out. He joked that it was like the movie *127 Hours* and he thought he might have to saw his leg off. He got out by breaking the boards around him with his fist, not difficult as they had all rotted through. The bathroom was also leaking like a sieve – you'd shower and step out onto a completely flooded floor because the water was seeping from under the shower wall. Plus a new home had been built in front of mine and the view was now to a roof of a house instead of Clareville beach and Pittwater. We had moved in 18 years ago and had enjoyed the cottage in all its simplicity but it now needed some serious loving.

It was vital for me that the cottage be renovated in the same style, with as little change to its soul as possible. The plot was first purchased by Sir Arthur Alfred Clements Cocks (a knight of the order of the British Empire!) and the house built in 1926. I felt I had a real duty of care to the memories of all the owners past and our own. Plus our home had always inspired and motivated me and my son Jack and I wanted to →

text deb bibby | **photography** maree homer


SMEG

ensure it would continue to do so for many years to come. So many original cottages are demolished that could easily be saved. I'm always amazed by people who purchase a house because they've been captured by its charm and then next thing you know is it's being knocked down because it's cheaper and more practical to build new than to restore – sad. We need to have more heart with these beloved homes.

MEETING THE ARCHITECT Long before I engaged an architect the plan was to lift the house into the light and at the same time to get an unobstructed view across Pittwater. I tracked down the best houselifter in the business, Peter Scott, and as luck would have it, he lived across the bay. I found out Peter had lifted numerous houses in the area and was well respected. We met and he agreed to take on the job. I now needed an architect. I met with two architects and a draftsperson (the costs had started!) and after a year (yep, it took me a year to decide) I settled on architect Grant Mears based on his first gentle sketches, his fees, cost estimates and by visiting one of his projects. His work was sympathetic to the era of the house and the area. In our first working meeting I shared a curated folder, gathered over years but distilled down to my ultimate spaces, finishes and some random beautiful things. The images were the starting point for our conversation. We went through it slowly so he could get a sense not just of my aesthetic but something more personal. I painstakingly made him a copy of the folder and covered it in post-it notes from our discussions (especially as he lived in New Zealand – don't ask!). I also created my own moodboard – it incorporated paint swatches in neutral tones, bottle green tiles, materials like brass, blonde timber and tan leather and images of the ocean, fire, the full moon, a spider and a couple of owls. It was a good collaborative process with my architect and I really loved that creative stage – the mind races and dreams seem within reach. →





photography sharyn cairns (office), mar[illegible]orner (dining area)

Room with a view I love how the doors in the dining area frame the views over Pittwater. I've had this dining table for over 20 years and the fabric chairs were found on the side of the road (honestly!). We suspect they're by Australian designer Fler. The ocean painting was another roadside find; next to it is a print by Mia Oatley and a photographic print of John Hurd by John Stoddart. **Working from home** My office has the original glass pendants I bought from Terence Conran in London 20 years ago.



Vintage love The vintage Jean Gillon "Sling" leather and rope sofa and armchairs from Vampt were a major splurge – I had to pay these babies off over six months but love that they're getting another life. The linen sofa is from Marle and I teamed it with a terrazzo coffee table from Spence & Lyda on an Armadillo&Co rug. **Cushy spot** The windowbox seat has these gorgeous leather tabbed cushions made by Heatherly Designs. The orange Penny Round cushion is from Rachel Castle and the vintage Le Klint wall lamp is also from Vampt. No interior is complete without a disco ball! →









photography sharyn cairns (living room & coffee table); matee homes (window seat & vintage sofa)



BATHROOM TIPS

SPOUTS

Make sure your spouts reach the bath basin – sounds obvious, but check the position of the bath and measure twice.

TAPWARE

When ordering taps for your bathrooms (and kitchen, and laundry), don't forget to check what materials are available for the outlets (brass, copper, stainless steel, plastic) – they need to match your taps if visible.

TOILET

Sit on the toilet in the showroom before you buy it. Embarrassing, but do it! Recess the cistern into the wall for more floor space.

BATH

Get in the bath before you buy it. Check you can rest your arms easily over the sides and your head rests comfortably back.

LIGHT

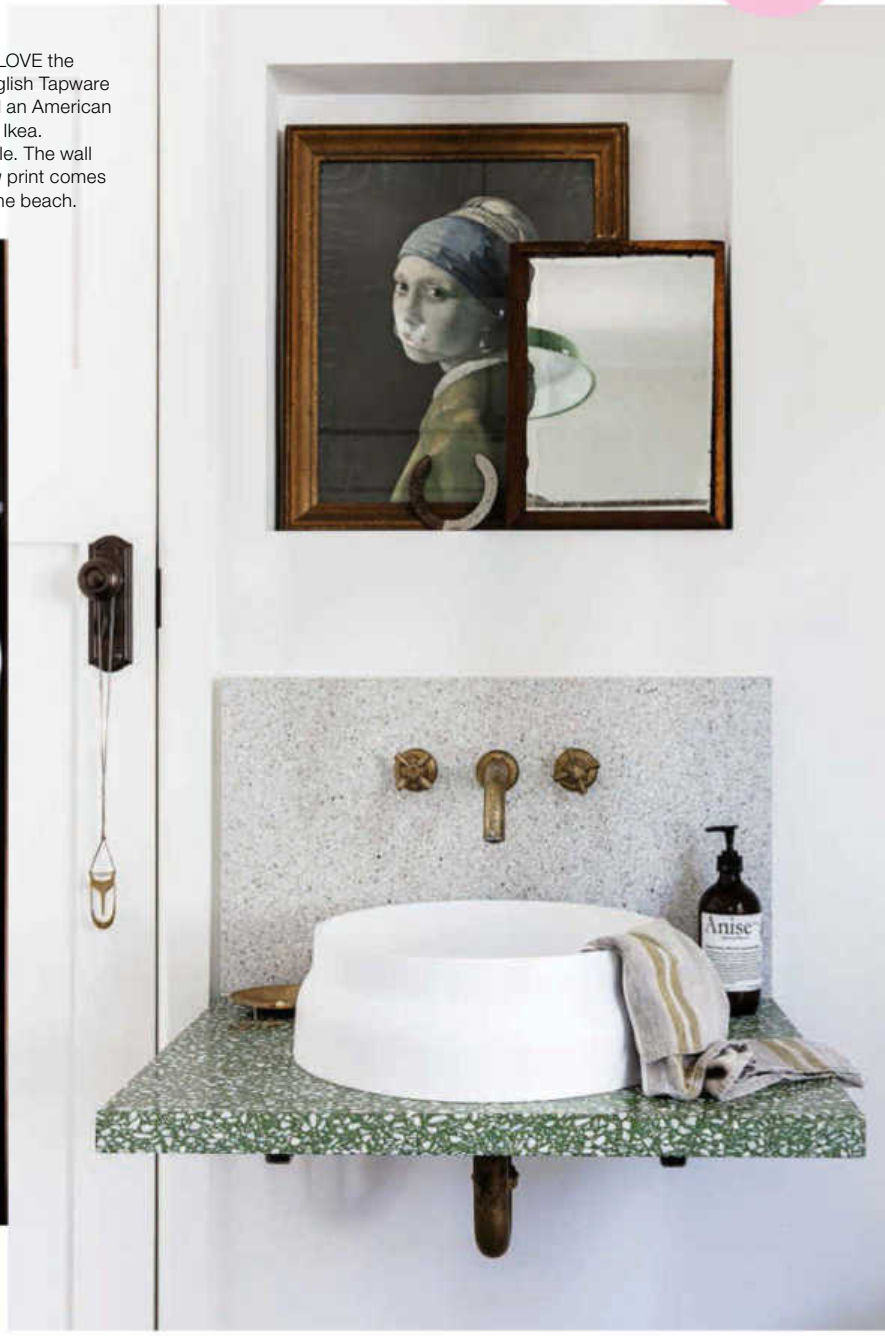
Make sure your bathroom has natural light. If it's not possible because of floor layout, think about installing a skylight.

photography maree homer

Bathing beauty My bathroom was one of the trickiest room designs to crack, but I LOVE the end result. The bath is the Ottocento from Artedomus and the tapware is from The English Tapware Company. **Mirror, mirror** My dresser matches the kitchen with formply drawers and an American oak top. The mirror is from Vinnies and, in the background, my bedside lights are from Ikea. **Green room** The Candana basin sits on a green shelf from Terrazzo Australian Marble. The wall tile is the Platinum Honed Terrazzo from Fibonacci Stone. The *Girl With A Pearl Earring* print comes from my family home. **Rinse off** We have an outdoor shower, too – perfect for after the beach.





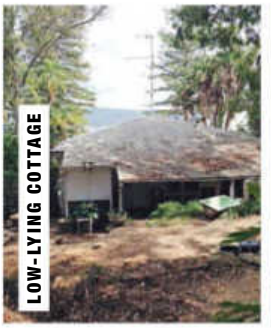


BRING IN THE BUILDERS With the architect on board and all the plans in place, I hired the builders next. Ryan Shepherd from Pure Construction Management was recommended by a friend whose own recent build was glorious. Ryan came over for a cup of tea, we chatted a variety of cost options and, based on gut, word-of-mouth and his proposed costings, I was in. Drawings complete, my architect prepared and submitted the DA (phew!). PCM started getting real quotes from all suppliers prior to DA approval so we could be ready to go as soon as the DA was through. With all the paperwork flying around and a pile of other players like geotech and certifiers coming into the picture, I realised I was a novice no matter how much I knew through editing **real living** magazine. And not only that, doing it part-solo was hard – you really need someone at the end of the day to gather with and chat about the happenings and just to bounce ideas off and check you are on the right track. Through the process I realised I was the apprentice trying to manage an army of blokes to craft my home, but reading this they will laugh and say they managed me and the project! Ha, I just needed some “man pants”, to quote architect Hannah Tribe. →

PICTURE TIMELINE


GOODBYE CACTUS


BEFORE


LOW-LYING COTTAGE


FIBRO CARPORT

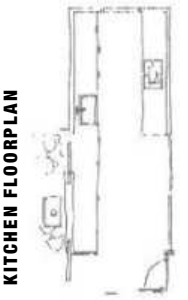

PACKING UP

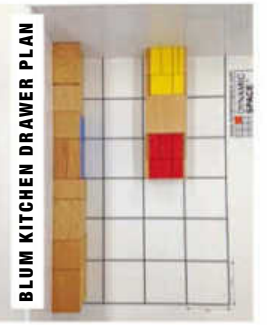

GETTING WARM


THIS OLD THING


DECKED OUT


FLOOR STAIN TESTS


KITCHEN FLOORPLAN


BLUM KITCHEN DRAWER PLAN


SANDSTONE WALLS


LANDSCAPE CLEARED


TEMPLE GRASS


READY TO LAY


PLOTTED OUT


BOOTS ON, BOOTS OFF


PAINTING, PAINTING


NEARLY THERE!

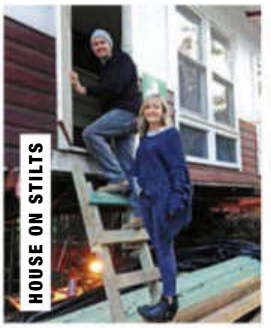


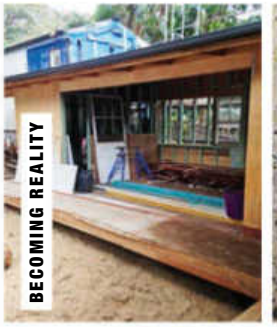
DEB'S RENO TIPS

1. Get your electricity and stormwater plan on the plans before getting your DA – don't think about it later on mid-build, it will cost you. It did me!
2. Check weather forecasts before you commit a date to the build.
3. Create a personal schedule spreadsheet of what builders will need and by what date and then, the minute the DA is approved, aim to have all your materials selected. Plus, order windows, doors, appliances, baths, WCs and arrange delivery to time with the building schedule. If space permits, have them on site ready to go.
4. Be decisive – changing your mind once the reno is underway is expensive.
5. Don't leave the house without: a tape measure, your tile samples, door measurements, fabric samples for furniture and blinds, a calculator.
6. Put all your suppliers' details into your phone before you head out.
7. If you open any internal walls during your renovation, put in some insulation. It helps reduce sound and keeps you extra toasty or cool.
8. Get powerpoints everywhere! Architects and builders will give you the standard spots but think outside the box and add them inside cupboards and cabinets, the ceiling (just in case) and the deck. Also use double plugs, especially either side of the bed for phone chargers.
9. The operating machines for extractor fans and underfloor heating get affixed to the exterior of your house. They make a noise so consider carefully where they are placed. Builders will whack them where they think they are best hidden but check location of bedrooms first.
10. Finishing touches: floor stain comes first, then installation of cabinets, light fixtures and painting. Stick to this order. Tradies' availability will be tricky but don't be bullied.


GOING UP


GOOFING AROUND


HOUSE ON STILTS


BECOMING REALITY


TIMELESS TAP


THE BIG DECISIONS


KITCHEN INSTALL

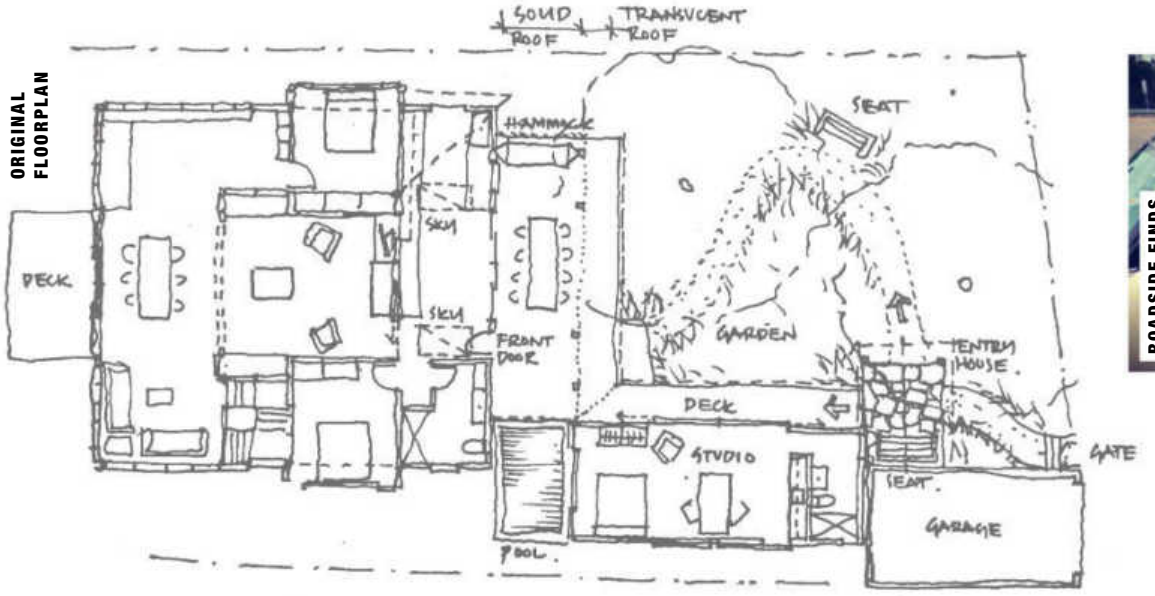

TILES ARRIVED


UP THEY GO


KITCHEN, TICK!


LAYING THE ENTRANCE

ORIGINAL FLOORPLAN




ROADSIDE FINDS

RYAN **THE BUILDER'S TIPS**

1. Understand the costs you will be paying for that are not covered by the builder. Consultants and authorities are not included unless your contract is a design-and-construct contract (not very common). Other costs apart from your builder's quote include: insurance; engineers for structural and stormwater plans plus site inspections during construction; geotech for risk analysis; council; certifier and all his follow up visits to check different stages. These costs can add up to between $30K to 50K!

2. Understand your contract.

3. If you are constantly changing your mind the builder will always be second guessing whether the plans represent what you are after. If the builder calls, respond urgently – delayed responses and decisions will end up costing you.

4. The more effort and preparation by you prior to build the better. Preparing a schedule or a draft scope of works covering all internal finishes, tiles, floors finishes, paint colour, joinery finishes, lighting and fixtures will help the builder provide a more accurate quote.

5. Be clear whether you are using an architect following the release of the Construction Certificate. There should only be three scenarios: the architect controls the project; they are on an as-required basis; or they are not involved. Be clear to both builder and architect on what the engagement is.

Renovating or building from scratch is an emotional rollercoaster – excitement, relief, anxiety; indecision; I'm over it; achievement! →

MY HEROES & EXPERTS

NOEK WITZAND
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER
Noekdesign.com A shining knight. He conceived, designed and chose the kitchen palette. He thought of me and took everything I said into account and then used his amazing eye to create a strong but feminine kitchen with honest materials.

SHAREEN JOEL
INTERIOR ARCHITECT
Shareenjoel.com Flying Shareen up from Melbourne to check the plans cost me $2000 and saved me $20,000 to $30,000.

PHOEBE PAPE
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
The most extraordinary, unique landscaper in Australia – she is the best kept secret.

MICHAEL KARAKOLIS
FIBONACCI STONE
Fibonaccistone.com.au Michael bent over backwards to get a second shipment of stone from Melbourne at a crucial time, and came and inspected the work. Unbelievable service, glorious tiles. A few top architects have commented on the tiles wanting the name, style and colour.

DAVID MOSES
David and his business partner David Krajancic became known as the two Davids – together they constructed my kitchen, laundry, wet bar and all the wardrobes. The kitchen was a tricky job as the old walls of the house were not exactly straight – eek! Being perfectionists, the work is flawless.

LINDA BRANDER
NEWSCAST
Newscast.net.au Linda does the PR for Smeg. She gave me a heads-up on the new Smeg range before anyone else! My Smeg stove is hero of the kitchen and very much loved already. I also chose the Smeg vintage-look fridge for my son's room – a huge hit.

OWEN CRICK
Stone sculptor and artistic ex-partner who created the main garden walls, the taps in the laundry and wet bar. A labour of love. Kaboom!

ROLLY BURNS
DAVEBILT INDUSTRIES
Davebilt.com.au Delivered all our structural steel despite the fact he'd suffered a family tragedy – he simply didn't want to let us down! A legend.

EXPERTS from left Noek Witzand, architect. Shareen Joel, interior architect. Phoebe Pape, landscape architect. Michael Karakolis of Fibonacci Stone. David Moses, cabinetmaker.





photography sharyn cairns



MY EXPERTS & TRADIES

TAPWARE The English Tapware Company *Englishtapware.com.au* They were brilliant. I ran in to look at taps and told them about my unresolved bathroom and kitchen plans. Catherine Silm and Susie McNicol pulled out the tracing paper and, woman to woman, we talked the practical side of these spaces. I left that meeting on a high.

ARCHITECT Grant Mears *Grantmears.com* A godsend – but based in New Zealand!

CERTIFIERS Insight Building Certifiers *Insightbuildingcertifiers.com.au*

HOUSELIFTER Peter Scott (02) 9999 2910

BUILDERS Pure Construction Management (PCM) *Pcmprojects.com.au* Insanely patient and no mucking about. Expensive, but I have the most solid, beautifully crafted home. **Marcos Charueski** was the seriously good carpenter on my build with PCM – he completely understood my aesthetic without us even saying too much and he crafted a verandah better than I could ever have imagined. It's a favourite spot in the house.

TREE SURGEON Trees For All *Treesforall.wix.com* The best. The tree that was felled was recycled as stools around the bonfire.

STONEWORK Lone Pine Landscapes *Lonepinelandscapes.com.au* Jacob Lloyd built the entrance steps, sandstone building surrounds and fireplace hearth.

PAINTERS Procontra *Procontra.com.au* Karl Machnio and his team are the fastest painters around.

ELECTRICIAN Trusty-T (Tyson Williams) *TrustyT.com*

EXCAVATION TJM Earthworks *Tjmearthworks.com*

PLUMBING Twin Taps Pty Ltd *Twintaps.org*

UNDERFLOOR HEATING Comfort Heat Australia *Comfortheat.com.au*

TIMBER JBH Timbers And Building Supplies *Johnsonbros.com.au* They bettered their pricing by a couple of percent to ensure they were better-priced than their local competitors.

ADDITIONAL CARPENTRY LABOUR Australian Building and Drafting Group *Abdg.com.au*

TRADIES from left Tony Monaghan of PCM. Peter Scott, houselifter. Jacob Lloyd of Lone Pine Landscapes. David Schubert, boss guy of PCM. Marcos Charueski, carpenter for PCM. Karl Machnio, painter from Procontra. Scott Rutherford of Twin Taps Plumbing. Troy Maquire of TJM Earthworks (in orange). →





Boy zone Jack's space opens up onto a timber deck with a hidden champaca garden and a private path to Clareville beach. His bed is from Marle, the Togo sofa from Domo and the beanbag from Rachel Castle. More Vintage LED pendants here, too. **The wet room...** The Fibonacci Stone Terrazzo tiled wall is brilliant and the horsey print from Pampa is pretty special, too. Novecento bath from Artedomus. **...and the wet bar** A Smeg fridge is the standout piece in Jack's wet bar. I got the cabinet a long time ago from Guy Mathews. →

THE DECORATING PROCESS The old and new now connect beautifully and you can barely tell them apart – they are intimate with each other and married by the veranda roof. Our home also feels more generous but the footprint was only slightly increased. All the old issues are now resolved: we have more storage, a glorious working kitchen, a few bathrooms, loads more space, less stuff, a new garage and a deck to throw a party on. My favourite aspect is strangely not the big water view but the feel of the kitchen and the dancing morning light in the garden – something special goes on there. You open the large sliding door into the kitchen and it's hard to move further as the veranda and kitchen engage you in such an earthy, loving way it's like being hugged. The veranda and courtyard are very much an additional room and the living room, now among the treetops, draws you in when the late afternoon light hits with its intense golden tones. My bathroom comes a close second and it was the hardest room in the house to design! And my son's bathroom with his immense wall of softest-grey terrazzo tiles. When decorating, I wanted to reuse some of my old things mixed with a few new pieces, but have far less than I did before. It was a real improvisation, nothing planned, and I love combining unusual pieces together and letting serendipity take over.

I adore our new home and am very proud. Looking back, I cried a few storms in my builder's arms at one point but mostly by myself, and even with all the tears I don't regret it at all. Yes, I would do it all again – it was a crazy, creative and very magical year in lots of ways. All the beautiful heroes and some of the wonderful tradies who crossed my path have now become firm friends and part of the memory of our home. Our home has retained its memory from the past, its soul is intact and for me that was the most precious outcome. It has opened its doors wider… or is it its heart?





photography sharyn cairns (pittwater & wet room); maree homer (jack)

BEFORE YOU START

Here are a few things to consider before you even pick up a sledge hammer:

☐ **GET THE DRAWINGS RIGHT**
When you submit your DA you're not required by council to have detailed drawings, so everything gets costed up on incomplete drawings. STOP! Don't be impatient! Get detailed drawings then cost up and if council make you redo drawings it's far cheaper than the cost of variations once you start building.

☐ **CHOOSE THE RIGHT BUILDER**
Before hiring a builder check out jobs he has done and chat to the homeowners if possible. I did, with both the architect and the builder.

☐ **READ YOUR CONTRACT NOT ONCE BUT A FEW TIMES**
Because I didn't have the backup I put all my trust in my builders. My first instinct was to build in stages but my builders pointed out the savings of $157K if I built it all in one hit. Who could say no to that? I should've. I would've had less stress on myself financially. I had $100,000 in the kitty spare for the unexpected costs. Enough? Never. I needed double that. Understand the word VARIATION! Keep the communication with your builders flowing. I expected too much support from my builders – they tried but at the end of the day business is business.

☐ **BUDGET REALISTICALLY**
My architect quoted $395,000 for the build. My builder quoted $487,080. My final build cost: $752,088. Look at the builder's quotes and double it, then consider council fees, certifiers, surveyors, geotech, arborists and architects and add another 10-15%. Trust me on this. Costs also continue after the build!

☐ **VISIT THE BANK**
Know your budget limits (taking into account the advice above) before going any further.

☐ **KNOW THE RULES**
Before undertaking any renovating, interior or exterior, find out what permits are necessary. Without all papers signed, stamped and delivered you could be slapped with hefty fines.

☐ **KNOW THY NEIGHBOURS!**
It's best if they're sympathetic to your renovation journey and all the practical, visual and aural inconveniences. Stay in touch with a kind note and a bottle of wine.

☐ **GET A SOURCING DEADLINE FROM YOUR BUILDERS**
Have your key suppliers lined up, check on their stock availability, this includes plumbing fixtures, stone, tiles, baths, taps, hardware, showerheads, drain outlets. Remember most suppliers have long lead times of about 4-8 weeks. Be prepared for your build. Ask your builder what you are responsible for and where they would help, especially in the plumbing department.

☐ **LEARN THE BUILDER LINGO**
Single-girl renovators or novices – learn the builder lingo before you start. It's actually another language. →

BEHIND THE SCENES
Head to our Facebook page at Facebook.com/reallivingmagazine for must-see video interviews with some of the tradies and experts.



Office space The old phone on my desk was found at the house when we moved in – it's a keeper. Both the desk and lamp were from Guy Mathews years ago. The photobooth pics are of me and my brother Adrian and the little guy is my son Jack as a cheeky two-year-old. **Great outdoors** Outside, Colorbond's old roof meets new in Monument Grey. For the garden, I brought in landscape designer Phoebe Pape to create something that was easy to maintain and that suited the coastal location. The grass is temple grass – it's a beautiful groundcover. Never needs mowing and soft to walk on. →

photography maree homer




KITCHEN



LIVING


BATHROOM 2



Clamp it!
Ranarp wall/clamp **spotlight** in Off-white, $29.99, Ikea.



Simply perfect
Tradco 1461 **handle** in custom Satin Brass finish, from $5.60 each (finish is additional), Pearl Lighting & Brassware.



Square spout
Perrin & Rowe "Oberon" **kitchen tap** in Bare or Satin Brass, $1164, The English Tapware Company. *WELS 4*.*



Hero stove
Smeg TRA4110P Victoria 7-burner **cooker**, $8490.



Linen slipcover
Bay **sofa** with arms in Chalk, from $2250 (1.8m x 89cm x 78cm), Marle.

Surf's up
Traditional Alaia **surfboard**, $880, Maywood.

Nice 'n' toasty
Nectre MK II radiant/convection freestanding **wood heater**, $1920, BBQ Factory.

Natural fibres
Sierra Weave **rug** in Chalk, from $750, Armadillo&Co.



Low rider
Ten10 travertine **coffee table** in Oil Rubbed Bronze, $5620, Spence & Lyda. *1.015m x 33cm.*



Industrial style
Well glass **pendant light**, $448, Dunlin.

Beautiful basic
Terrazzo stone **tile** in Platinum, $127 a sq m, Fibonacci Stone.



Hand made
Eggcup **stool**, from $550, Mark Tuckey.



Classic taps
Perrin & Rowe "Contemporary" **basin set** in Bare or Satin Brass, $956, The English Tapware Company. *WELS 4*.*



Round we go
Round **mirror**, $160, Armchair Collective.



MAIN BATHROOM



VANITY

Interior paint
Dulux Wash & Wear **paint** in Natural White, $71.90 for 4L.

Shower power
Perrin & Rowe ceiling shower **dropper and rose** in Polished or Satin Brass, $703, The English Tapware Co. *WELS 3*.*

Soothing shape
Omvivo "Latis" round **basin**, from $900, Candana.

Shower curtain
Classic linen **curtain** in Natural (1.45m x 2.7m), $175, Elements I Love.

Gorgeous green
MT45 **terrazzo**, from $400 a sq m, Terrazzo Australian Marble.

Fabulous forms
Tom Dixon "Form" brass **bowl set**, $155, Third Drawer Down.

Get cross
Perrin & Rowe "Contemporary" **wall valve set** in Polished or Satin Brass, $644, The English Tapware Co.

My fave
Appelles Blackseed **shampoo**, $39.95.

Essential item
W1470 **stool**, $255, Bisque Interiors.

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Preliminaries	$82,842.49
Demolition	$31,567
Houselift	$16,000
Groundworks	$16,759.51
Concrete	$28,271.95
Masonry	$17,657.10
Timber framing	$31,512.06
Structural steel	$9570
Roofing	$12,019.43
Internal linings	$53,811.99
Doors & windows	$26,357.88
Finish carpentry	$100,567
Joinery	$40,000
Metal & glass fabrication	$1182.60
Painting	$20,000
Electrical	$35,495.15
PC (prime cost) items – the allowance for bathroom fittings, appliances, etc	$40,000
Plumbing & drainage	$30,739.74
Scaffolding, pest control, traffic management	$20,780.16
Landscaping	$25,750
Authorities	$10,000
Consultants	$28,000
Kitchen design	$20,000
CHANGES DUE TO LATENT CONDITIONS	
Garage rebuild including footings & slab	$39,752
Stormwater connection issues	$13,452
TOTAL	**$752,088.06***

**My original quote was nowhere near the end figure as it was based on basic DA plans (see page 145, Tip 1, "Before You Start") and variations (remember that word) due to dramas in the ground, weather and the unexpected in restoring an old house.*

photography sharyn cairns (living room, bathroom 2 & vanity); maree homer (kitchen & main bathroom)

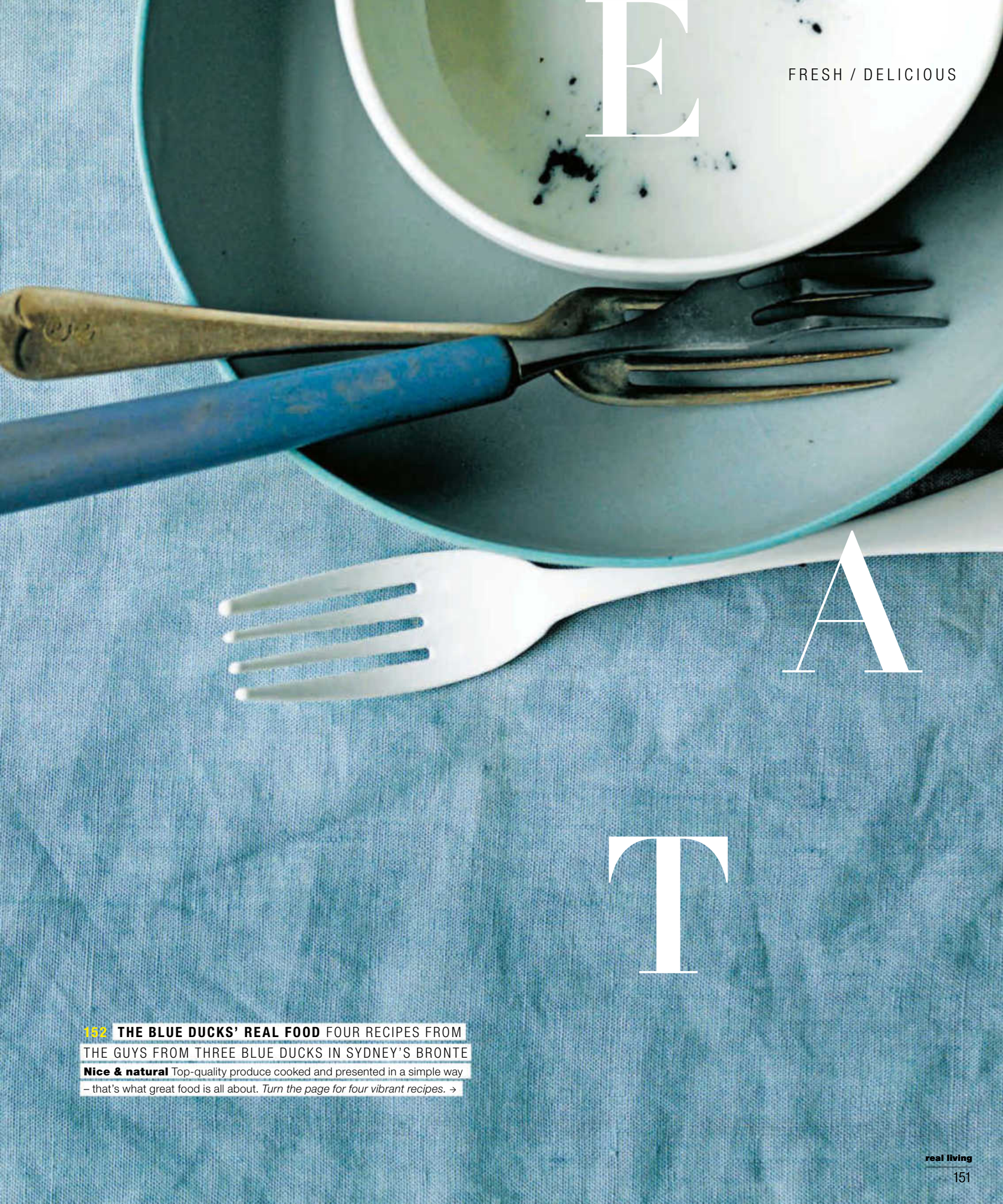
FOOD

— TO LOVE —



RECIPES TESTED BY US, TRUSTED BY YOU

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EAT

152 **THE BLUE DUCKS' REAL FOOD** FOUR RECIPES FROM THE GUYS FROM THREE BLUE DUCKS IN SYDNEY'S BRONTE

Nice & natural Top-quality produce cooked and presented in a simple way – that's what great food is all about. *Turn the page for four vibrant recipes.* →



REAL FOOD

THE GUYS FROM THREE BLUE DUCKS IN SYDNEY'S BRONTE SHARE FOUR OF THEIR FAST, ***FRESH AND NOURISHING*** RECIPES

recipes courtesy of *the blue ducks' real food* by mark labrooy and darren robertson
photography william meppem & ant ong | **prop & food** styling emma knowles



CHARRED BROCCOLI WITH ALMONDS, LEMON & CHILLI

Serves **6 as a side**
Prep time **5 mins**
Cooking time **10 mins**

Equipment Sharp knife; chopping board; fine grater; barbecue grill or chargrill pan; large bowl; tongs; frying pan

2 heads of broccoli
2 tbsp rice-bran oil
Salt flakes & freshly ground pepper
1 tbsp slivered almonds
1 tbsp sesame seeds
1 tbsp pumpkin seeds
1 long red chilli, sliced finely
1 garlic clove, sliced finely
1 handful of mint leaves
1 handful of coriander leaves
Finely grated zest & juice of 1 small lemon
1 tbsp olive oil

1. **Preheat** barbecue grill on high or place a chargrill pan over high heat.
2. **Remove** stems from broccoli heads. Cut away base of stem, peel off skin and cut stems into 4mm slices. Cut each head into 8 similar-sized pieces so they cook evenly. Place broccoli in large bowl, drizzle over half the rice-bran oil and toss to coat. Season broccoli with salt and grill for 3 to 4 mins, turning occasionally. Once cooked, chop broccoli into florets and add to large bowl.
3. **Heat** frying pan over medium heat and toast almonds and seeds in separate batches until golden.
4. **Fry** chilli and garlic in remaining rice-bran oil until garlic starts turning golden around edges. Add to broccoli along with herbs, almonds, seeds, lemon zest and juice and olive oil. Season, toss to combine, serve. →

MIXED-GRAIN "RISOTTO" WITH BACON & PEAS

Serves 4 as a side
Prep time 5 mins
Cooking time 18 mins

Equipment Sharp knife; chopping board; 4 small or medium saucepans; colander; medium, heavy-based saucepan; wooden spoon

100g pearl barley
100g Israeli couscous
100g red quinoa
100g Puy lentils
3 tbsp vegetable oil
1 large red onion, diced finely
3 garlic cloves, chopped finely
4 rashers of bacon, cut into lardons (matchsticks)
2 long red chillies, deseeded & julienned
300ml vegetable stock
50g butter
250g frozen peas
1 large handful of mint leaves, torn
Juice of ½ lemon
Salt flakes & freshly ground pepper

1 **Simmer** barley, couscous, quinoa and lentils in separate saucepans until al dente. You can cook these in 4 small or medium saucepans at the same time, just watch for different cooking times. Drain well, combine and set aside.
2 **Heat** medium, heavy-based saucepan over high heat. Add oil, onion, garlic, bacon and chilli and cook until onions are soft and bacon starts to caramelise. Add grains and 250ml of stock and stir gently for 3 to 4 mins. The starches in the grains will start to thicken up the liquid; keep cooking until you have a risotto-like consistency.
3 **Add** butter and, once melted, add peas and mint. Squeeze over lemon juice; season to taste. If it looks a little dry, add some more stock. Spoon into bowls and serve.



HOW TO PREPARE A CRAB



1/ SEASON WATER

Add salt to a large saucepan of water until it's about as salty as ocean water and bring to the boil.



2/ PREPARE CRAB

Place crab in sink. On the underside there is a pointy flap that is connected to the carapace (top shell) of the crab.



3/ REMOVE CARAPACE

Stick your thumb deeply and firmly in behind this pointy flap. Lift and pull in the same motion to remove the carapace.



4/ REMOVE GILLS

Remove the gills, as they have a bitter, dirty flavour, but leave most of the orange "mustard".



5/ SPLIT THE CRAB

Cut or break the crab in half lengthways.



6/ CRACK CLAW SHELL

Use back of a heavy knife to crack the shells of the two large claws – this makes it easier to get to the meat once cooked.



7/ COOK IN WATER

Carefully place crab in water and, depending on the size, cook for 6 to 8 mins.



8/ REMOVE & SERVE

Lift crab from water and rest for 5 mins. These are wonderful with a citrus and chili mayonnaise. →


40
MINS



CHILLI CRAB

Serves 2
Prep time 25 mins
Cooking time 15 mins

Equipment Sharp knife; chopping board; medium saucepan; wooden spoon; blender; small bowl; heavy-based frying pan with lid; large bowl

2 blue swimmer crabs
Vegetable oil, to fry
400ml coconut milk
Chilli mix
2½ tbsp vegetable oil
3 red Asian shallots, chopped roughly
4 garlic cloves, chopped roughly
50g peeled ginger, chopped roughly
6 to 8cm lemongrass stalk, white part only, chopped finely
4 long red chillies, chopped roughly
½ bunch of coriander roots, chopped roughly (see below)
60g palm sugar
2½ tbsp fish sauce
250g cherry tomatoes
Coconut sambal
90g desiccated coconut
Juice of 1 lemon
1 red Asian shallot, sliced finely
1 tsp chilli flakes
½ bunch of coriander, leaves picked, roots reserved for the chilli mix

1 **Make chilli mix** Place medium saucepan over high heat and add oil. Once hot, add shallots, garlic, ginger, lemongrass, chilli and coriander roots to pan while stirring constantly. Everything should start to caramelise pretty quickly. Add palm sugar, which will melt and make a spicy caramel. Keep cooking until chillies are soft. Add fish sauce, and continue to cook until liquid has mostly gone. Add cherry tomatoes, crushing them with the back of wooden spoon as you stir. Keep stirring mix until tomatoes have completely broken down. Add mix to blender and process until smooth, or keep it a bit rough, it's up to you.

2 **Prepare crabs** Remove top shell from crabs, discard gills and set mustard aside (only the really yellow parts). Cut each crab into four pieces. *See page 155 for step-by-step instructions.*

3 **Make coconut sambal** Mix coconut, lemon juice, shallots and chilli flakes in small bowl. Tear in coriander leaves and work into a rough sambal with your fingers.

4 **Cook crabs** Place frying pan over high heat, add a splash of oil and heat until shimmering and almost smoking. Add chilli mix and reserved mustard from the crab and fry for 1 min, stirring constantly. Add crab pieces and coconut milk and cover for a minute or so to bring the liquid to the boil. Once liquid is at a vigorous boil, remove lid and cook for 2 mins. The key here is a quick cooking time, as the meat will break down into little pieces if overcooked.

5 **Once cooked**, tip crab into large bowl along with sauce. Scatter over some coconut sambal and serve. →



HONEY, YOGHURT & GOAT'S CHEESE SEMIFREDDO

Serves **8**
Prep time **16 mins**
Cooking time **4 mins + freezing**

Equipment Sharp knife; 30cm loaf tin; cling wrap; baking tray; large bowl; whisk or beaters; 2 medium bowls; spatula; ice-cream scoop

70g buckwheat kernels
3 eggs, separated
1 tbsp honey, plus extra
250ml Greek yoghurt
150g soft goat's cheese
Salt flakes
250ml cream
1 vanilla pod, split lengthways, seeds scraped
1 tbsp caster sugar
60g roasted hazelnuts, peeled
4 figs

1. **Preheat** oven to 200°C (180°C fan). Line loaf tin with cling wrap and place in freezer.
2. **Spread** buckwheat out on baking tray and roast until golden, about 4 mins. Set aside to cool.
3. **Add** egg yolks to large bowl and whisk until pale. Add honey, yoghurt, goat's cheese and a pinch of salt and whisk until smooth.
4. **Whisk** cream and vanilla seeds in medium bowl until soft peaks form.
5. **Whisk** eggwhites and sugar in separate medium bowl until stiff. Note: It's really important that the bowl and whisk or beaters are clean and dry, otherwise the eggwhites won't become stiff and form peaks.
6. **Fold** cream mix into yolk mix using spatula until combined. Fold in eggwhite mix then hazelnuts and buckwheat (reserving some buckwheat for garnish). Pour into prepared tin and freeze overnight.
7. **Scoop** semifreddo into serving bowls. Top with torn figs, a drizzle of honey and reserved buckwheat.



Get real
Love this edited extract? Check out more lipsmacking recipes in *The Blue Ducks' Real Food* by Mark LaBrooy & Darren Robertson, $39.99 (Pan Macmillan).



20+
MINS


HOMES
— TO LOVE —
Uniquely Australian inspiration and practical advice from the pages of House & Garden, homes+, real living and Belle. Now under one roof.
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OUTSIDE



162 GORGEOUS GARDEN BUYS SHOW YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE SOME GREEN-THUMB LOVE WITH THESE STUNNING GARDEN ESSENTIALS

Bright bud You'll be snipping pretty with new secateurs. Acrylic square **containers** in Clear, from $9 each, Shop For Shops. *Turn the page for garden buys.* →

green thumb

SHOW YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE SOME LOVE WITH THESE **NEW BUYS FOR THE GARDEN** – PICK YOUR PALETTE!



Going green FROM LEFT Bella Vista Festoon weatherproof **light garland** in White, $220, Terrace. Sophie Conran "Twist" **cultivator**, $35, Quality Products. Assorted **air plants**, $6.99 each, Bunnings. Socker **bucket/plant pot** in White, $12.99, Ikea. Indoor **watering can** kit in Sage Green (includes mister, not shown), $129, and Small **scissors** plant pruner in White, $78, Mr Kitly. Bittergurka **watering can** in White, $14.99, Ikea. **BACKGROUND** Tuff Turf synthetic **turf**, $49.90 a lineal m (1.8m wide), Bunnings. Walls and boxes painted in Porter's Paints eggshell acrylic in **Eden** (light green), $97 for 4L, and **Green Velvet** (dark green), $102.90 for 4L. →

fresh 'n' green…


dusky copper hues…

Pretty petals FROM LEFT **Tulips** from market. Copper **watering can**, $140, Terrace. Truella handmade garden **trowel** in Bronze, $89, Grafa. Chameleon **plant stand** in Copper plated, $260, Ivy Muse. Copper **stakes**, $7.50 for set of 6, The Lost And Found Dept. RHD **secateurs** in Passiflora (includes gift box, not shown), $49, Quality Products. Forca handmade garden **fork** in Bronze, $89, Grafa. Terra Hydro 80:80 **vase** in Copper, $230, Mr Kitly; holding **tulip** from market. **BACKGROUND** Walls and boxes painted in Porter's Paints eggshell acrylic in **Alley Cat** (light purple), $97 for 4L, and **Castro** (dark purple), $106.90 for 4L. →





Down to earth FROM LEFT Haws **mister** in Brass, $45, Terrace. Maddeford Economy **hose reel**, $39.97, Bunnings. Sophie Conran **dibber**, $35, The Lost And Found Dept. Stoneware terracotta **planter**, $130, and Single Wing Scrub Union scrubbing **brush**, $9, Koskela. Wonder **glove** (sold as pair), $18, Mr Kitly. Atrium **lantern** in Brass, $49.95, Freedom. Essential Tools beechwood **plant labels**, $22 for 6, Quality Products. **BACKGROUND** Walls and boxes painted in Porter's Paints eggshell acrylic in **Golden Ochre** (deep yellow), and **Bee's Knees** (light yellow), both $97 for 4L. **Banksia** flowers from market. →



sunny terracotta...

Cool hue FROM LEFT Sea holly **flowers** from market. Scratch Protector **glove** in White (sold as pair), $42, Quality Products. Eva Solo "Aquastar" **watering can** in Grey, $52, Top3 By Design. RHS **fork** and trowel set in Chrysanthemum (trowel not pictured, comes with gift box, not shown), $56, Quality Products. Button **plant stand** in Sky Blue, $180, Ivy Muse. Acrylic square **container** in Clear, $9, Shop For Shops; displaying Sea holly **flower**, as before. Calypso **pot** in Matt Black, $95, Ivy Muse. Vindruva **greenhouse set** (only two pictured), $14.99 for 3 different sizes, Ikea; displaying Sea holly **flowers**, as before. **Dustpan** (includes brush, not shown), $45, Koskela. Page Thirty Three garden herb **seeds**, $40 for jar of 48, Top3 By Design. **BACKGROUND** Walls and boxes painted in Porter's Paints eggshell acrylic in **Obsidian** (dark blue), and **Attic** (light blue), both $97 for 4L. *For stockists, see page 175.*





photography james tolich | **styling** jackie brown
floral styling sinead ambrose/sineadambrose.com









cool STUFF

This month's roundup of super-duper products for your home and lifestyle















TOP ROW FROM LEFT **Santalum Estate** incense sticks are made from 100% natural sandalwood and essential oils. Available at Bunnings; Santalum estate.com.au **iscd Online Interiors Course** For just $199, learn about colour for your home through our interactive online course; Iscd.edu.au **Oates** Titanium brooms are durable and efficient with a bamboo handle for superior strength and a steel brace for extra support. Available in three sizes and bristle types; Oates.com.au **2ND ROW Spotlight** Stay snug with these Super Plush Soft Reversible blankets available exclusively at Spotlight; Spotlight.com.au **Colorbond®** Looking for advice on building or renovating? Colorbond® steel's Create is a great place to start. Order a copy from Colorbond.com **3RD ROW Domayne** Create a dramatic focal point for your space with the Mink pendant light,$199.95; Domayne.com.au **Kaboodle**'s laminate benchtops emulate the look of popular stone surfaces from all over the world; Kaboodle.com.au **The Good Guys** Create your own café cool kitchen by mixing and matching textures, surfaces and colours in an open plan design; Kitchens.thegoodguys.com.au **BOTTOM ROW Zanui** Complete your space with the practical storage and Scandi style of the Miller console table, $299.95; Zanui.com.au **Tourism Fiji** Whether you're white water rafting or enjoying spectacular snorkelling and a quiet swim, it's all here. In Fiji, you just do what makes you happy; Fiji.travel/au/welcome-to-happiness **Caruso**'s Super Collagen Builder may assist in the production of collagen and improving hair strength for healthier hair, skin and nails. $29.95 at health stores and pharmacies; Carusosnaturalhealth.com.au

MATERIAL SELECTIONS will make or break your daily maintenance rituals. **Glass tables** are glamorous and create an illusion of space, but are also noisy and inevitably show fingerprints. If you have a young family, choose a material with some patina to reduce visual wear and tear. Your **budget** will inform both the overall design process and material selections, too. **Marble** or **brass** isn't within your budget? There are plenty of **real-looking fakes** out there.

SIZE, SCALE, SHAPE

The coffee table should stop traffic in a design sense but not block the flow of traffic through the room. Rectangular tables fit most spaces, while round tables give the illusion of more space and often improve the flow of foot traffic. It needs to be stable and fit-for-purpose, and the right height, too – as a general rule, it should be the same height as surrounding seating.



JACINTA PRESTON

GET YOUR TECHNIQUE RIGHT

INTERIOR DESIGN EXPERT **JACINTA PRESTON** TALKS COFFEE TABLES

THE COFFEE TABLE is part display, part storage, and, most importantly, it's where you can park a teacup, book or meal. Yes, the coffee table might be the most important piece of furniture in your living room. **Form always follows function**, so first ask yourself what your coffee table needs to do for you. Is it purely decorative, or must it contain the remotes, be a footstool, hide the kids' toys, provide extra storage, or double as the dining table? Once you identify the functional role, you can then identify the **decorative options**. The coffee table can blend into the space or it can be the **statement-making hero of the room**. It can also take the form of a trolley, drum, slab of wood or tree stump.



Top tables FROM LEFT Shelter Organic in **Natural Acacia** (60cm x 65cm x 25cm), $1145, Globe West. City2 in **Smoke Brown** (40cm x 1.2m x 70cm), $299.95, Super Amart. Nested Metal Geometric in **Black**/**Copper**/**Gold** (heights: 51cm, 46cm, 41cm), $35 for set of 3, Kmart. Elle Pipe in **Black**/**Matt White Marble** (80cm x 40cm), $1375, Globe West. *For stockists, see page 175.*

photography nick scott (portrait); felix forest (vessels)



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EFFIE ZAHOS

MONEY MOVES TO MAKE

MONEY MAGAZINE'S **EFFIE ZAHOS** REVEALS FIVE WAYS TO BE MORTGAGE-FREE BY RETIREMENT



1 GET A CHEAPER HOME LOAN RATE AND INVEST THE DIFFERENCE
The difference between the cheapest and most expensive home loans on the market can be as much as $240 each month in repayments on a $400,000 loan. Over 10 years that totals $28,800! In this low-interest rate environment you may be better off **refinancing** to a cheaper home loan and **investing** your repayment savings elsewhere. Investors looking for income can find **dividend-paying stocks or funds** that are yielding more than the cost of their mortgage. These returns can be redirected back into your home loan. But, it's high risk. If you are unsure about this strategy, stick to refinancing to a cheaper home loan, but pay back the same amount you were paying on your old loan.

2 LIVE OFF YOUR CREDIT CARD If you have a mortgage, you usually pay it once you've been paid then pretty much spend what's left of your pay. Some of us do the right thing and put all our pay into a **mortgage offset account** to minimise interest expense. This is the right way to go, but if you are disciplined you can save even more by using an **interest-free credit card** to extend the days that your pay stays in an offset account. By using an interest-free credit card – one that offers you a generous number of interest-free days – to cover your everyday expenses, your income can sit in the offset account for longer offsetting the interest you pay on your home loan. **You need discipline** to ensure that you don't spend more than your budget allows on your credit card and that you do pay it off during the interest-free period. Look for a card with at least 55 days interest-free, and preferably one with no, or a very low, annual fee.

3 REFINANCE TO A SHORTER TERM INCREASING THE TERM ON A $400,000 LOAN FROM 25 YEARS TO 30 YEARS WILL REDUCE YOUR REPAYMENTS BY $50 A WEEK, BUT INCREASE YOUR INTEREST BILL BY OVER $54,000. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO COMMIT YOURSELF TO A SHORTER TERM YOU CAN ALWAYS ASK YOUR LENDER TO CALCULATE YOUR REPAYMENTS, SAY, OVER A 20-YEAR TERM BUT KEEP THE PAPERWORK AT A 25- OR 30-YEAR TERM. THAT WAY, IF YOU DO RUN INTO SOME FINANCIAL WOES, YOU HAVE SOME LEEWAY.

4 MAKE GOOD USE OF YOUR OFFSET AND/OR REDRAW FACILITY
Both the offset and redraw facilities work the same. Popping, say, $10,000 into an offset account linked to your mortgage will not only **save you thousands of dollars in interest** but will help you **pay off your loan sooner**. On a $350,000 loan – over 25 years, charging 5% pa interest – you will not only save a whopping $23,700 off your interest bill, but also shave 11 months off your loan term. Any money put into your **offset account** is saving interest on your home loan, but is **still available to you** whenever you want it through an online transaction or an ATM withdrawal. The interest "earned" in the account is not taxable as it constitutes interest not charged as distinct from interest earned.

5 ROUND UP REPAYMENTS *As interest on your loan is calculated on your daily balance and charged monthly in arrears, every* **extra dollar** *thrown at your mortgage "earns" interest at a rate equal to your mortgage interest rate for the rest of your loan. By* **increasing monthly repayments** *on a $400,000 loan over 25 years from $2111 to $2200, the loan term is reduced and your interest bill drops from $233,479 to $215,853.*

photography pablo martin (portrait)


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TEAL APPEAL

MIX BLUE-GREEN HUES WITH LIGHT TIMBER AND CONCRETE GREY FOR A **BOLD**, **BREEZY LOOK**

TOP ROW FROM LEFT Navone "On-Off" hexagonal **tiles** in Teal, $206.80 a sq m, Bisazza. Ethnicraft "Tripod" **side table**, $236, Curious Grace. Replica George Nelson "Bubble Pear" **pendant light** in White, $295, Matt Blatt. **MIDDLE ROW** FROM RIGHT Kidston 3-seat **sofa** in Double Tweed Light Grey, $1895, Clickon Furniture. Porter's Paints ultra-flat acrylic **paint** in Deep Teal, $102.90 for 4L. **BOTTOM ROW** FROM LEFT Driftwood **vase**, $39.95, Super Amart. Menu "Modern Houses" **boxes** in Green, $80 for set of 3, Huset. *For stockists, see page 175.*

photography bisazza-australia.com.au (interior); jason lloyd-evans (fashion)



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BONUS KITCHEN & BATHROOM SPECIAL
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STYLE UPDATE 10 THINGS YOUR HOME NEEDS RIGHT NOW

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